DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

by:
Erminda S. Almazan
Teacher III, Sto. Domingo Elementary School

Collaborative learning is a kind of educational approach wherein the students indulge themselves actively in a group that works together to solve a particular problem, to complete a certain task, and to create a specific product.

It differs from cooperative learning in the sense that the students work together sequentially on the different aspects of an activity.

To have a clear picture of collaborative learning, the following characteristics are explained:

- **Common task responsibility.** The teacher should instruct the learners that they have a common responsibility that is to work together and attain a particular product or output as the astounding accomplishment. They should pool their minds together in aspiring for a common goal or target.

- **Small-group learning experiences.** The teacher lets the students form only small groups in order to have better learning experiences through close communication with each other. Better learning may occur in small-group size due to easy transmission of ideas to fellow members. Moreover, small-group style may simplify the exchange of ideas among learners.

- **Cooperative employment behavior.** Though it’s collaborative, the employment of cooperation among the members is expected in order to be successful in achieving a
common target. The teacher has to inspire the members of the group to exert their best efforts in various activities.

**Interdependence among members.** Since the task is composed of sequence, the coordination of all members is required. All the members depended and rely on each to connect the chain binding them together. It is just like giving trust to each other and giving confidence to all members. Everyone is vital, every member is important.

**Unity among members is achieved.** Since there are cooperation and interdependence among the members of the collaborative group, unity is well-achieved. The learners are united for collaborative pursuit or purpose.

**Support to each other.** In collaborative learning, your fellow group members will be your support systems. They will also be your strength in order to push better in the undertaking that the group is going through. The support you give to each other during collaborative work is essential.

**Individual accountability to the team.** Though it’s a group effort, you are also accountable for what you have done. It means that as an individual, you must share your particular contribution for the success to the entire group.

**Promotion of critical thinking.** Collaborative learning raises the level of thinking of the learner. Since you are obligated to participate actively in the process, you need to think well about what you will give to the group. You also need to analyze what others expressed for the group work.

Collaborative learning is best viewed as a learning approach that includes common task, features small-group experiences, employs cooperative behavior, with interdependence among members, inculcates unity among members, invites support system, stresses individual accountability and promotes critical thinking.
References:


https://www.cte.cornell.edu/teaching-ideas/engaging-students/collaborative-learning.html