WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PEER TEACHING?

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Peer to peer teaching has students take on a teaching role in a school setting in order to share their knowledge with other students (Hillary Mason, 2003). Similarly, David Boud stated that peer learning should be mutually beneficial and involve the sharing of knowledge, ideas and experience between the participants. It can be described as a way of moving beyond independent to interdependent or mutual learning (Boud, 1988).

Peer teaching is not a new concept. It can be traced back to Aristotle’s use of archons, or student leaders, and to the letters of Seneca the Younger. It was first organized as a theory by Scotsman Andrew Bell in 1795, and later implemented into French and English schools in the 19th century. Over the past 30-40 years, peer teaching has become increasingly popular in conjunction with mixed ability grouping in K-12 public schools and an interest in more financially efficient methods of teaching (Saga Briggs).

Saga Briggs listed some examples of peer teaching. Proctoring programs involve one-on-one tutoring by students who are slightly ahead of other students, or who have successfully demonstrated proficiency with the material in the recent past. Cooperative learning divides classmates into small groups, with each person in the group responsible for teaching others, and each contributing a unique piece to the group performance on a task.

Peer teaching were also found to be an effective way of learning because peer educators themselves benefit from peer teaching and this is supported by David Boud, he pointed that students learn a great deal by explaining their ideas to others and by participating in activities in which they can learn from their peers. They develop skills in organizing and planning learning activities, working collaboratively with others, giving
and receiving feedback and evaluating their own learning. Similarly, Saga Briggs stated that peer teachers reinforce their own learning by instructing others.

Other benefits of peer teaching that Saga Briggs also stated are. Students receive more time for individualized learning. Direct interaction between students promotes active learning. Students feel more comfortable and open when interacting with a peer. Peers and students share a similar discourse, allowing for greater understanding.

And peer teaching give great help to teachers. This idea is supported by Saga Briggs and stated that teachers receive more time to focus on the next lesson.

Moreover, it is not a substitute for teaching and activities designed and conducted by teachers, but an important addition to the repertoire of teaching and learning activities that can enhance the quality of education (David Boud).

References:

Boud, David. What is Peer Teaching and Why it is Important?, https://web.stanford.edu/dept.