



IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUES TO ENHANCE LEARNING EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AMONG STUDENT TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

The present article explores the importance of cooperative learning techniques to enhance learning educational psychology among student teachers. The goal of educational psychology is to make any teacher-student relationship as positive as it can be, so that the students can learn to the best of their potential. There is no single learning approach that works for everyone. That's why psychologists working in the field of education are focused on identifying and studying learning methods to better understand how people absorb and retain new information. Educational psychologists apply theories of human development to understand individual learning and inform the educational process. The learning of educational psychology needs some innovative learning technique to comprehend the learning theories and different concepts in educational psychology. Therefore, the cooperative learning technique is considered more effective technique to enhance the learning educational psychology among student teachers.

KEYWORDS : Cooperative Learning, Educational Psychology, Student teachers.

INTRODUCTION

The cooperative learning is one of the effective learning techniques to enhance learning educational psychology. Educational psychology could be defined in a lot of different ways, but the basic idea is that it's a field that studies and applies theories and concepts from all of psychology in educational settings. Educational settings might be schools, ranging from preschools all the way through college. But they also might be anywhere people learn, such as after school programs, community groups, companies or even within families. The goal of educational psychology is to make any teacher-student relationship as positive as it can be, so that the students can learn to the best of their potential. There is no single learning approach that works for everyone. That's why psychologists working in the field of education are focused on identifying and studying learning methods to better understand how people absorb and retain new information. Educational psychologists apply theories of human development to understand individual learning and inform the educational process. Educational psychology has contributed considerably to the creation of the modern system of education. In teaching, we are dealing with three elements – the teacher, the student, and the subject. It has helped teachers, headmasters, administrators, inspectors, guidance and counseling workers, social workers to significantly develop an impartial and sympathetic attitude towards children and form them into integrated personalities.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING - MEANING

The term 'cooperative learning' is an instructional method in which the students work in small groups. The cooperative learning refers to four quite distinct things. It refers to (1) Cooperative behavior, that means working with or helping others. (2) Cooperative incentive structure, in which a group of two or more individuals are rewarded based on the performance of all group members. (3) Cooperative task structure, in which a group of two or more individuals can or must work together but may or may not receive rewards based on their group's performance and (4) Cooperative motives, the predisposition to act cooperatively or altruistically in a situation that allows individuals a choice between cooperative, competitive, or individualistic behavior. The cooperative learning is essentially a small group instructional technique. In a class for example, forty students may be divided into eight groups of five, and members in the each group study together and receive recognition based on the sum of their individual scores. When individuals work together

toward a common goal, they are dependent on one another's efforts to achieve that goal. This interdependence motivates the individuals to. i) encourage one another to do whatever help the group to succeed. ii) Help one another to do whatever help the group to succeed and iii) like one another, because individuals like others who help them achieve their goals and because cooperation typically increases positive contact among group members. The new approach, namely cooperative learning approach is wider in application in the United States and its importance in India is realized in recent times.

IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUE

Indian classrooms are characterized by large size classrooms and the teachers teach through large group methods such as lecture, lecture - cum - demonstration, etc. It is pointed out that all the students are not able to understand the subject clearly and there is no scope for interaction among the students. There is no doubt that interaction facilitates better subject understanding and social relationship. As India is a developing country, individualized instruction may not be applied immediately due to cost factor involved in this respect. Cooperative learning approach in this context is a boon to the teachers.

Cooperative learning approach is a meaningful approach in teaching-learning process in Indian context, when compared with large group and individualized instruction methods. The cooperative learning not only focuses on the students' achievement but also students' social relationships. Here the students are likely to encourage and help one another to learn and there is a wider scope for the development of cooperative and social spirits. In cooperative learning process, the pupils themselves play an increasingly responsible role. This may facilitate "responsible self-direction" among the peers. Childhood education stresses the importance of cooperative play and learning to enhance the child's overall development. Although recent emphasis has been on individual learning, cooperative learning can equally play an important role in successful childhood programming. It happens spontaneously in classrooms all the time. Cooperative learning distributes the responsibility of learning among the students. Students can explain and exchange ideas to each other in their own language. Students, who solve the problems in group cooperatively, find the solution accurately and quickly than the students who solve the problems in other learning approaches. It is pointed out that the advent of

Educational Technology has not made any major inroad into the educational system in India. The individualized instructional approaches which are popular in the countries like UK, and USA have not gained momentum in India because of various reasons. The application of individualized instruction like computer assisted programmes involves financial resources, and the developing countries like India cannot afford such individualized programmes because of financial constraints. The Individualized Instruction aims at involving all the learners in the learning process. Likewise, cooperative learning approaches provide opportunities for all learners to participate and contribute in the learning process. Since cooperative learning approaches are economical and easier to implement unlike individualized instructional approaches, such types of team-based approaches are needed in Indian classrooms.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUE AND LEARNING PSYCHOLOGY

The learning psychology is more important for student teachers to become a good teacher in the school and society. The psychological concepts and learning theories are helping the student teachers to understand their capacity of students and their inner feelings etc. the effective way of learning psychology is possible through cooperative learning technique. It is one of the easily accessible learning techniques to enhance the learning of educational psychology among student teachers.

IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING PSYCHOLOGY FOR STUDENT TEACHERS

Education and psychology are interdependent. One psychologist said that I did not understand how a teacher could teach without the knowledge of education Psychology. Psychology had changed the spirit of education and it gives new meaning to learning in classroom. Psychology also changed the old concept of education where only upper class had the ability and right to learn. Psychology gives education the theory of individual differences that every child has different mental ability and learns with different pace. Today in modern era, education psychology is the foundation of education. Psychology effect education in every field of teaching learning process. For years, teacher educators have written about the purposes, aims, and goals of educational psychology and have stressed the relevance of the field for the practice of teaching and learning (Alexander 2004; Berliner 1993; Brophy 1974; Woolfolk Hoy 2000). However, as Sternberg (1996) noted, educational psychologists seem to be having more and more trouble explaining to educators what they do and why educators should care. In this special issue, authors explore the relevance of educational psychology in teacher education programs, noting how educational psychology contributes to the preparation of teachers. It is very essential for a teacher to teach his students according to their mental abilities. Educational psychology helps the teacher in doing so. It enables the teacher to teach where and how? The way in which teachers are educated and supported to meet the challenges of the 21st century has become a contended issue. In raising alarm, criticizing the status quo, and making recommendations, various study groups and blue ribbon panels have focused on economic issues, equity and excellence, the need for more rigorous subject matter preparation, and on the restructuring of incentives and the career ladder for teacher

CONCLUSION

The present article concludes that cooperative learning technique is preferable technique to learning educational psychology. Effective teaching and learning requires the application of new approaches, techniques and methods. The field of education has been revolutionalized with the advent of educational technology. Newer approaches, techniques and

methods for mass, small-group and individualized instructions have been popularized by educationists and educational technologists. The cooperative learning approach is one such approach which is popularized in recent times. It not only helps in promoting the academic achievement of student teachers, but also helps them achieve social and psychological developments. It helps them to become effective teachers in the classrooms.

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