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THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GROUP LEARNING AND INDIVIDUAL LEARNING

Annotation: In this article we explore two styles of learning: individual and group education. We discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches, as well as their key differences. In the end, we try to suggest the best choice according to some research results.

Key words: individual, group, learning, education, students.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada o'rganishning ikkita uslubini ko'rib chiqamiz: individual va guruhli ta'lim. Biz ikkala yondashuvning afzalliklari va kamchiliklarini, shuningdek, ularning asosiy farqlarini ham muhokama qilamiz. So'nggida esa biz ba'zi tadqiqot natijalariga ko'ra eng yaxshi tanlovni taklif qilishga harakat qilamiz.

Kalit so'zlar: individual, guruh, o'rganish, ta'lim, o'quvchilar.

Аннотация: В этой статье исследуются два стиля обучения: индивидуальное и групповое обучение. Мы обсудим преимущества и недостатки обоих подходов, а также их ключевые различия. В конце мы пытаемся предложить лучший выбор по результатам некоторых исследований.

Ключевые слова: индивидуальное обучение, группа, обучение, образование, студенты.

Introduction

Education is crucial for personal and professional development. There are various ways to learn, such as studying by yourself or with others. Each approach has its own benefits and difficulties. People continue to discuss which method is more effective for learning in our constantly evolving educational landscape.

Both approaches are important in shaping the learning experience. Solo study encourages self-paced learning and personal reflection, while group study enhances teamwork, communication skills, and varied viewpoints. It's important to understand the distinctions between individual and group learning, whether you're a student aiming to enhance your study methods or an educator seeking fresh teaching strategies.

Analyzing group studying

Working together in groups offers many benefits that can improve the learning experience for students. One important advantage is that it helps improve communication skills. By taking part in group talks and projects, students can overcome their fear of speaking up. This environment encourages them to share their thoughts, ask questions, and have important discussions with other students. As a result, students become more confident in their ability to communicate well, which is a useful skill both inside and outside of school.

Working together in groups helps students learn how to cooperate, work well with others, and be part of a team. When students collaborate, they learn to share tasks and use each other's skills to reach shared goals. This helps them feel connected and supportive of each other, which builds strong relationships. The teamwork skills students gain from group learning are important for doing well in school and are also very valuable in both personal and work situations.

Additionally, learning in a group fosters a positive spirit of competition. This competitive environment motivates students to aim for the best and give their all. It pushes them to set higher goals for themselves and builds an active learning atmosphere where everyone is excited to improve.

Working together in a group helps tasks get done faster and makes it easier to share the work. When everyone in the group takes on different parts of the project, the work gets done better and faster. This helps to make each person's job lighter and teaches valuable skills about sharing responsibilities and trusting others in a team.

However, learning in a group has some challenges too. A big problem is that not everyone might do the same amount of work. Some students might not put in as much effort, which can make others feel upset and annoyed. This uneven effort can lower the quality of the work and make it harder for teachers to grade fairly.

Another problem is that bad behavior can affect how the group works together. If some members act in a way that causes trouble or doesn't help the group, it can slow down the group's progress and make the learning environment worse. These behaviors can make other students feel bad and reduce how well the group learns together.

Analyzing individual learning

Learning on your own has many benefits that can help students a lot. The major benefit is getting better feedback. In a setting where you learn alone, teachers can give you feedback that is just for you and very detailed. This helps you understand what you're good at and what you need to work on. This kind of feedback helps you make big steps in your learning.

Furthermore, individual learning ensures that students receive focused attention. When the teacher focuses only on one student, they can use a teaching method that is better suited to that student's needs and works more effectively. This is especially helpful for students who want more attention, students who need specific knowledge for business, or students who have trouble in group situations. Such students can excel in an environment where instruction is tailored to their unique needs and learning styles. As David Johnsons (1992) said “teacher and student can tailor the course to exactly what is appropriate for that one student, rather than having to reach a compromise based on what is suitable for a group as a whole”.

Moreover, individual learning allows for flexibility and customization. Students have the freedom to learn at their own pace and convenience, which is especially beneficial for those with hectic or irregular schedules. Additionally, learning materials and methods can be adjusted to align with the student's individual learning preferences, enhancing the efficiency and enjoyment of the learning process. As D. Johnsons (1992) further states “this has enormous advantages not only for the designing of a program of study where the syllabus and content can be matched to a particular student’s needs and interests, but also in terms of the student’s learning style and what kind of stimulus they respond to best”.

Nonetheless, individual learning has its own drawbacks. One significant disadvantage is the lack of social interaction, which can hinder the development of essential social skills and limit exposure to diverse perspectives. Additionally, individual learning may limit students' exposure to different ideas and approaches, leading to a more narrow perspective. Lastly, self-motivation and discipline are crucial for individual learning, as students may struggle without the structure and accountability provided by group learning.

Differences between alone and together learning

According to S. Meiramova and A. Zhanysbayeva (2015) several distinctions can be observed when comparing individual learning with group learning, particularly in terms of time management, homework allocation, and grading methods.

1. Time Management: In individual learning, students have the autonomy to manage their time independently, allowing for a more flexible and self-paced approach. This enables students to allocate time based on their personal strengths and weaknesses. Such flexibility is advantageous for individuals with varying schedules or those requiring additional time to comprehend certain concepts.

On the other hand, group learning necessitates synchronized time management. Students must coordinate their schedules to collaborate, which can pose challenges. The learning pace is typically determined by the group's collective progress, which may not align with an individual student's preferred speed. This synchronization fosters the development of time management and organizational skills as students learn to balance their time with the needs of others.

2. Homework Allocation: In individual learning, homework tasks are tailored to address the specific needs and progress of each student. Teachers can assign assignments that directly target areas requiring improvement, ensuring a personalized learning experience. This focused approach aids students in concentrating on their weaknesses and developing a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Conversely, in group learning, homework assignments are designed for collaborative completion. These tasks often necessitate input and effort from all group members, promoting a sense of shared responsibility and teamwork. Group homework may involve projects that benefit from diverse perspectives and collaborative problem-solving, enriching the learning process through collective effort.

3. Grading Methods: In individual learning, grading is a simple process that is solely based on the student's performance. This method allows for a precise evaluation of the student's comprehension and advancement. Teachers are able to offer detailed feedback on each assignment, aiding students in recognizing their strengths and areas that need improvement.

In group learning, grading becomes more intricate. It often requires assessing both individual contributions and the overall performance of the group. This complexity can sometimes result in difficulties in ensuring fairness, especially when not all group members contribute equally. Teachers must strike a balance between evaluating individual efforts and the collective outcome, which may occasionally lead to disagreements or perceptions of unfairness among students.

Conclusion

When it comes to choosing one method, we can get some help from researches that were carried on this topic.

Bloom's 1984 study showed how one-on-one tutoring beats group teaching. Students with personal tutors did way better than kids in normal classes. This proves tailored learning boosts grades through custom help and feedback.

David Johnson's 1992 work backs up personal learning too. He stressed how schools can tweak lessons for each kid's wants and needs. Johnson saw that solo learning fits students' styles making school more effective.

Johnson and Johnson looked at team learning's effects in 2009. They found group work and teamwork help kids do better than learning alone. Kids who worked together got higher grades, made more friends, and felt better about themselves.

Robert Slavin checked out group learning plans in 1980. He saw that learning in groups not upped grades but made kids like school more. Team projects taught kids people skills and how to get along with different folks - stuff they need to grow up well.

In education, both individual and group learning offer different advantages that fit different learning preferences and objectives. Individual learning gives students one-on-one attention, letting them study at their own speed and get tailored feedback to help them understand and develop their skills better. This approach works well for students who have particular educational needs or who enjoy studying alone.

Conversely, group learning helps students improve their ability to communicate, work together, and cooperate. Through group discussions, projects, and activities that require solving problems together, students learn how to work well in teams, share tasks, and use different viewpoints to reach shared goals. This teamwork not only helps students succeed academically but also prepares them for situations in the real world where working with others and having good people skills are important.

Group learning helps students share ideas, compete in a good way, and finish tasks faster by dividing the work. It teaches them to handle different views, get along with others, and work as a team to achieve common goals, which are important skills for jobs today.

Overall, although individual learning provides personal advantages and freedom, group learning offers broader development, like better social skills and teamwork. This makes it a good choice for education today. Teachers should think about using both methods wisely, taking the best parts of each to create learning settings that meet various students need and prepare them for a society that works together.

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