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### **Collaborative Learning:**

#### **I- Overview:**

Collaborative learning is a parasol term for a variety of instructive tactics involving joint rational effort by students, students and teachers together. In this environment all are working in group of two or more, mutually working on a common problem by collecting useful material and knowledge and disseminating the same in the group for the better outcome. The environment offers to showcase strength of an individual and allows developing their weaker skills. Memory retention for all age group focuses that, 50% retention on what we see 70% retention on what we discuss and 90% retention on what we discuss and do. Rationally around 75% learning can take place by using Chapter 1 Page 8 era to participate in discussion group, sharing the knowledge and experience, and doing real experiments with proper sharing the resources and thoughts. This makes the environment healthier and makes the learning more strong in the collaborative way [1]. Active learning is the superset of collaborative learning; which involves talking, listening, writing and reading with individual involvement in the learning pedagogy. Collaborative learning which involves active participation of group where the interaction and implementation takes place in the pedagogy.

#### **II- Definition of Collaborative Learning:**

Collaborative learning is a technique that involves group of students working together to impact learning in a positive way. Working together and learning together always results into more learning outcomes then working or learning individually. Rapid developments in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and evolving learner behaviors require teach resource providers to continuously re-evaluate their spaces. The concept of collaborative learning evolved from virtual 'classroom' where people having similar interest and similar area to share their ideas and knowledge. This working in a group improves both learning of individual as well as learning of their peers as healthy knowledge sharing takes place in environment.

#### **III- Elements and advantages of collaborative learning:**

The element of the collaborative learning mainly depends on the domain in which it is considered. Here in the teaching-learning environment, the elements and the advantages are considered for the 21st century learners. Key elements on which teaching-learning emphasis in 21st century are:

- a- Learning abilities of learner.

- b- Learning tools used by the learner.
- c- Process of teaching- learning in the context.
- d- Assessment that measures the skills.
- e- Vast pool of content available.

Also the major elements support the smooth collaborative learning environments are:

- a- Learners' readiness in working in collaborative environments.
- b- Learning viewpoints.
- c- Learners' cooperation.
- c- Learners' adaptability.

Constructing learning environment together is the fundamental objective of collaborative learning. According to Johnson, Johnson, and Smith (1991), the five essential elements of cooperative learning are:

- a- Clear positive interdependence between learners.
- b- Face to Face (F2F) interaction.
- c- Individual accountability.
- d- Emphasis on interpersonal and small group skill.
- e- Processes must be in place for group review to improve effectiveness.

Successful implementation of collaborative work for the educational domain likely to provide add on input for the better outcome to the students as well as teachers. It allows explicit procedures that encourage the students to work together. It helps teacher to monitor groups, group activities, and also help teachers to make more decisions about the learning of the student in the teaching-learning environment. A few of the basic advantages of collaborative learning over traditional teaching-learning paradigm:

- a- Knowledge building.
- b- Learner centric methodology.
- c- Exchange, debating, negotiating ideas.
- d- Develops highly communicative discussion skills.
- e- Develops the social interaction skills.
- f- Develops the higher level thinking.
- g-Encourages and improves the multidimensional problem solving skills.
- h- Enriched course materials.
- i- Immediate feedback.
- j- On-demand interaction and support.

#### **IV- Conclusion:**

Learners of the 21st century should have an opportunity to experience virtual collaboration and teamwork. One must be equipped enough to communicate across social and structural boundaries using technology. To address this need, instructors increasingly incorporate virtual learning environments in traditional teaching learning environment. Another benefit of using virtual collaboration as a strategy to teach and learn is the ability to bring together heterogeneous participants and render learners to a diversity of cultures, opinions, and communication styles. Indulging collaborative learning environment, learners can reach each other to solve problems, can share knowledge and resources, can build team skills, and can lead towards the deeper learning

skills. Learners can lead each other to great team where member can exchange their ideas, and build deeper understanding environment. Collaborative learning environment allow reaching out one another to solve many complex problem and sharing expensive resources.

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