

المناقشة الجماعية كإستراتيجية فعالة في التعلم
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المخلص:

تهدف هذه الورقة إلى الإسهام في فهم العلاقة بين مشاركة الطلاب في التفاعل داخل الفصل و تحصيلهم الدراسي . و تتناول هذه الدراسة أهمية تنفيذ أنشطة المناقشة الجماعية كنمط من أنماط التعلم النشط والفاعل في أحد الجامعات الليبية، حيث لا توضح هذه الورقة أهمية المناقشة الجماعية فحسب ، بل تقوم - أيضاً - بتحديد مدى أهمية ذلك، نظراً؛ لأن المحاضرات التقليدية تصب جل تركيزها على " نقل المعرفة بدلاً من تعزيز مشاركة الطلاب من خلال التعلم النشط" (ابوشينة، 2017). هذا، وعادةً ما يتعلم الطلاب المزيد عندما يتم تشجيعهم على تحمل مسؤولية تعلمهم، حيث يتم تعزيز وتحفيز انخراطهم ومشاركتهم في عملية التعلُّم من خلال طرح الأسئلة وتبادل الآراء والأفكار سواء أكان ذلك مع معلمهم أو مع أقرانهم، فضلاً عن زيادة ثقتهم بأنفسهم. وبالإضافة إلى ذلك، تشير هذه الورقة البحثية إلى أهمية وعي المعلمين بشأن ضرورة تطبيق أساليب التعليم التفاعلي بحيث يتسنى للطلاب الحصول على فرصة أفضل للتعلم.

الكلمات الافتتاحية: المناقشة الجماعية – المعرفة – التعلم – المشاركة

Group Discussion as an Effective Strategy in Learning

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between student participation in classroom interaction and their achievement. This paper discusses the importance of the implementation of group discussion activity as an active learning in a Libyan university. Not only the paper elucidates the importance of group discussion but it also identifies how it is important because traditional lectures focus on “transmitting knowledge rather than promoting student engagement through active learning”. (Abushina, 2017) Students usually learn more when they are encouraged to



take responsibility for their learning. Their engagement and participation in the process of learning are increased and motivated through asking questions, sharing opinions and ideas with either their teachers or peers as well as a rise in their self-confidence. In addition, the paper suggests the importance of teachers' awareness to apply interactive teaching techniques so that students get a chance for better learning.

Keywords: group discussion - discussion benefits - learning - engagement

Introduction:

There are various types of teaching methods and techniques, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. Group discussion is one of the methods of teaching that has been used recently in a classroom. This method involves both teachers and students therefore it is considered as a constructive process because it comprises listening, thinking as well as speaking skills of the students.

Psychologists and educationalists, influenced by Vygotsky (1978) claim that, pupils working in small groups can share and evaluate ideas and develop their 1 2 critical thinking.

This paper starts with what a classroom/ group discussion means, why it is important and the advantages of group discussion and the problems that teachers may face. Therefore, some suggestions will be illustrated.

What a classroom/group discussion?

A group discussion is a discussion that happens in a classroom and “makes learning more interactive and helps students develop skills that cannot be taught in a traditional lecture format” (Corcoran, S. 2016, p.20). Group discussion is known as group work according to some studies for example; Cohen (1994) defines group work as” students working together in a group small enough so that everyone can participate on a task that has been clearly assigned” (p.1).

In general, a classroom discussion is a continual interchange between and among teachers and their students. Teachers usually use this method instead of lecturing or besides lecturing in order to develop students' capabilities and skills so the learning can be more effective and the goal of the lesson can be achieved.

Group discussion depends on the number of the students in the classroom, therefore, it can be in a small or large group and each group has its pros and cons.

The Benefits of Class Discussion:

Group discussion is a recommended strategy to be used in the class. However, it has to be used correctly in order to help the learners as much as possible. With discussion strategy, students can get numerous benefits based on Stephen and Stephen's views about Discussion as a Way of Teaching. Their reasons that:

- 1- Learners enjoy the class and learn how to appreciate a diversity of perspective.
- 2- Discussion in the classroom increases students' awareness.
- 3- With discussion technique, students can identify and investigate their assumptions as well as they develop skills of synthesis and integration.
- 4- Discussion leads students to change and be flexible.
- 5- When discussion is used in the class, students are encouraged to be more focused and listen to their peers wisely.
- 6- Student shows respect to each other's opinion and experiences.
- 7- They learn the processes of democratic discourse
- 8- They develop the skill of collaborative learning.

Furthermore, during discussion students can learn critical thinking and understand things more clearly. Also, in language classrooms it is a chance for students to enhance more vocabulary and improve their listening and speaking skills when they participate. Therefore, they enhance personal development. Regarding writing skills, students can improve their writing via discussion and enhance creativity; where in reading, discussion can be more helpful to students because it increases students' interests and engagement. As they discuss their answers in groups and listen to other answers, they get different perspectives on the topic. Different questions and answers can get students to think deeply and make connections. Jansson (2011) states "the fact that the different members of a group bring different knowledge to the gathering indicates that the more members that there are in a group the more knowledge they have available" (p.9).



Group discussion doesn't play rule only on students' academic achievement, it also plays a factor in supporting and boosting students' confidence. In addition, students have to opportunity to plan their work and take responsibility such as distributing the work between them and agree who will write the main point or who will represent the group. A group discussion is a good chance for getting quiet students to come out of their shells and share their voices with the class when they notice that there is no right or wrong answer. With such method students can build a relationship and a supportive environment can be created.

Regarding teaching, discussion technique is not only useful for learners but it is a good strategy for effective teaching.

- Teachers can recognize their students' learning needs and observe their individual differences which can be helpful for modifying teaching methods based on the requirements.
- Teachers can provide more feedback to students during their walking around the groups.
- It is an opportunity to stimulate students to learn through asking questions and offering their students comments.

In a summary, based on the studies there is a relationship among interaction, thinking and learning as indicated by Resnick, Asterhan, & Clarke, (2017). Cohen (1994) states that "Group work is an effective technique for achieving certain kinds of intellectual and social learning goals. It is a superior technique for conceptual learning, for creative problem solving, and for increasing oral language proficiency." (p.6).

Suggestions for Further Studies:

Based on the author's argument, the following further studies have been suggested:

- ❖ Further studies to investigate group discussion in Libyan universities especially in the English language department.
- ❖ A study to examine different methods of teaching (for example a comparison between the effectiveness of a lecture and a group discussion) and their efficiency.
- ❖ Further studies to investigate group discussion in high school.
- ❖ Further studies to investigate group discussion in primary schools.

Accordingly, programmes can be provided as a good grounding for staff development in order to improve teaching qualities as well as educational outputs in general.

Conclusion:

To conclude, this paper highlights some main points that try to demonstrate the importance of group discussion in the classroom and how it supports students to attain holistic development. It also shows in what way teachers can improve their teaching methods through the feedback they get via their observation to the effectiveness of group discussion strategy. Moreover, the paper points out some suggestions that might influence help educational improvement.

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