

Colloborative Learning in Professional Education: Role of National Education Policy-2020

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Abstract

As outlined in the National Education Policy 2020, the cultivation of professionals should include three fundamental elements: a grounding in the ethical and societal significance of public service, specialized instruction in their chosen disciplines, and an education for practical application. These three elements are essential for fostering holistic development in professionals. Furthermore, professional education ought not to be constrained within the narrow boundaries of one's field of expertise. Rather, it should actively promote critical thinking, interdisciplinary cooperation, and cultivate an atmosphere conducive to discourse, deliberation, exploration, and creativity. These institutions should provide holistic and comprehensive education that goes beyond disciplinary boundaries. By the year 2030, all educational institutions, regardless of their focus on professional or general education, should aim to seamlessly integrate both aspects. Collaborative Learning serves the purpose of the country by ensuring the students contribute equally and share the workload. It also allows students to embrace new challenges and collaborate with their peers on different aspects of their subject while learning.

Keywords: National Education Policy 2020, Professional Education, Transformation, Abilities.

According to the National Education Policy 2020, the development of professionals should encompass three crucial aspects: an schooling in the ethical and societal importance of communal purpose, an schooling in their specific field of study, and an education for practical application. These three components are vital for nurturing well-rounded professionals. Moreover, These three elements are crucial for cultivating professionals with a broad skill set. Additionally, professional education should transcend the narrow confines of individual specializations. It should actively encourage critical thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and foster an environment of discussion, debate, research, and innovation. By incorporating these elements, specialized education becomes an vital part of the broader education system. To achieve this, specialized institutions such as agricultural universities, legal universities, health science universities, technical universities, and other standalone institutions in various fields should strive to transform into multidisciplinary institutions. These institutions should provide holistic and comprehensive education that goes beyond disciplinary boundaries. By the year 2030, all educational institutions, regardless of their focus on professional or general education, should aim to

seamlessly integrate both aspects. They should naturally evolve into institutions or clusters that offer a harmonious blend of professional and general education. This integration will ensure that professionals possess a well-rounded skill set and a broader understanding of societal needs.

Key Characteristics of Collaborative Learning

1. Collaborative Learning serves the purpose of the activity by ensuring that all team members contribute equally and share the workload. It also allows students to embrace new challenges and collaborate with their peers on different aspects of projects.
2. Additionally, it fosters the development of friendships and teamwork, enabling students to connect with like-minded individuals across the institution.
3. Moreover, Collaborative Learning facilitates the formation of new relationships, providing opportunities for students to interact with and learn from their peers, gaining insights into their diverse ways and cultures.
4. Lastly, it involves the delegation of skills, where tasks are assigned to team members based on their experiences, expertise, and interests.

Strategies to Enhance Collaborative Learning

1. **Engaging in Project Development:** Collaboratively, the teams can delve into comprehending and pinpointing novel market segments, crafting blueprints, discovering optimal solutions, and maximizing resource utilization. The students can leverage their individual skills, aligned with their interests and expertise, to effectively contribute to the project's advancement.
2. **Exchanging Ideas and Concepts:** By working in teams, the students have the opportunity to exchange their insights and ideas with other teams, fostering a mutual learning environment. This facilitates the acquisition of new knowledge across various subjects and enables the students to cultivate expertise in specific domains.

Tasks Needed to Practice Collaborative Learning

Defining Group Responsibilities: It is important to clarify the goals and responsibilities of each member in the group before starting any work assignment. This will ensure that everyone is accountable for their tasks.

Cultivate Open Communication: Encouraging transparent and candid dialogues among group members can enhance their comprehension of concepts and facilitate more effective learning.

Implement Pre- and Post-Assessment: Instructors can gauge students' progress before and after collaborative learning sessions to evaluate the impact of group learning on academic outcomes.

Assess the Learning Process: Engaging in discussions and debates as part of collaborative learning can stimulate student growth and acquisition of knowledge. Assessing this process can promote meaningful and productive exchanges.

Employ Strategies like the Jigsaw Technique: Sharing insights and information with other teams can deepen students' understanding of subjects and foster mutual assistance.

Infuse Group Activities to Alleviate Anxiety: Integrating humor and entertaining activities into collaborative learning settings can foster a relaxed atmosphere, easing tension and anxiety among students.

Utilize Real-World Problem Solving: Incorporating real-life scenarios into problem-solving exercises can enhance project-based learning and make it more applicable and engaging for students.

Prioritize the Development of Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking Skills: Assignments that encourage diverse solutions and perspectives can nurture students' ability to think critically and solve complex problems effectively.

Form Diverse Groups: Creating teams with members from diverse backgrounds, including various countries, genders, and ethnicities, can bring fresh ideas, talents, and learning approaches to the forefront, enriching students' educational experiences.

Integrate Technology for Enhanced Learning Outcomes: Leveraging educational technology can offer students access to diverse instructional approaches, empowering them to work more efficiently and effectively.

There are Various Types of Collaborative Learning Viz

1. Reflect-Discuss-Share where students work independently before engaging in discussions to exchange information and ideas.
2. Informal Collaborative Learning Groups entail dividing the class into teams and assigning a project, resulting in reduced lecture time and enhanced retention.
3. Formal Collaborative Learning Groups require members to work together for weeks or months on projects, applying various approaches.
4. Problem-Based Learning involves assessing and solving a given problem in groups.
5. Collaborative Base Groups consist of teams with different perspectives and mindsets working together towards a project for at least a year.

The significance of fostering collaborative learning among students lies in its ability to enhance their communication and social skills.

1. Collaborative learning not only facilitates the acquisition of knowledge from peers but also cultivates positive habits and behaviors in students.
2. By distributing responsibilities, working together, and fostering trust, collaborative learning encourages students to develop a sense of teamwork and cooperation.
3. Engaging in collaborative learning environments empowers students to comfortably share their ideas, engage in strategic discussions, and express themselves within a group setting.
4. Additionally, collaborative learning provides students with the opportunity to expand their network by connecting with individuals from various fields of expertise.
5. Ultimately, collaborative learning plays a pivotal role in boosting students' confidence and equipping them with essential skills for their future endeavors.

Teachers have a big part to play in helping students learn together. They need to create groups, provide good learning environments and activities, and assign tasks and opportunities that encourage collaboration. They must ensure diversity within the groups, provide access to resources and study materials, and assess student performance collectively.

Benefits of Group Learning

1. Promotes group Learning: Collaborative learning enables students to learn from one another, as they can articulate and exchange new ideas and concepts in ways that often resonate more effectively than traditional instruction.
2. Enhances Critical Thinking: By engaging in group discussions and providing feedback to one another, students are able to develop their critical thinking skills. This process involves understanding and evaluating the ideas and opinions of others, which ultimately leads to improved critical thinking abilities.
3. Fosters Problem-Solving Skills: When students collaborate to solve a problem, each individual is responsible for solving a specific part of the task. This not only enhances their problem-solving abilities but also promotes teamwork and cooperation.
4. Enhances Communication Abilities: Collaborative learning requires students to work together, which in turn improves their communication skills. Through discussions, debates, and

expressing their thoughts, students become more proficient in effectively conveying their ideas and opinions.

5. Promotes Cultural Awareness: In a school setting where students come from diverse cultural backgrounds, collaborative learning fosters cultural awareness. Students with different ideas, beliefs, and working styles interact with one another, leading to an increased understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly Collaborative Education enhances the skills, abilities and confidence among the students in general and professional education pursuing students in specific and the NEP 2020 has been a significant game changer in the education sector of India.

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