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The Effect of Group Work on the Students Achievement

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Abstract

Group Work strategy becomes one of an important method used recently and therefore this study was done. The aim of this study is to know the relationship between high scores of students and learning by group work strategy. In this study we will know the effect of group work on student performance, skills and behaviors. This study used a descriptive approach Methodology. In this study we found that group work improves the learning, performance of students and thereby improve their, achievements, skills and behavior. and regarding for that we recommend some points such as: it's important to develop the content to accomplish the objective of this strategy and conduct training courses for teachers so they can use and apply this strategy in effective way.

Keywords; Group Work, Scores, Students' Achievement, Student Performance.



1. Introduction

The students' achievement become more important day by day for their future and it creates a lot of stress on them and their parents. In modern strategies the instructors adapt new strategy to enhance learning in students; such as they used group work strategy and it appeared its effect through over the world. (Beatrice A. Ward, 1987).

Now days a lot of teachers change their traditional teaching way and use new modern strategy of teaching and one of the most important is group work which noticed its impact on students' performance. (Bello, 2011).

Group work can be applied on small and large classes. Many recent studies show the important use of this strategy. (Bello, 2011). And we aim in this paper to show the real high achievement gained by students who learn by using work group strategy and its effect on their performance, skills and behavior.

And also, there are some problems which face this strategy when the teacher applied it on him/her students in the classroom. So, we will show some of them and the results with the most recommendation.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve some significant objectives:

This study aims to show the relationship between high achievement records in schools and apply group work strategy in classes by teachers on their students. And to show the effect of this



strategy on the students' performance, skills and behavior within at class or outside like with their colleagues, teachers, manager and their families.

1.2 The Study Problem

The Education Process these days suffers from many of the problems caused by changes in the community and have a significant impact on the achievement, skills and behaviors acquired by students.

This study has come to discuss a new strategy in education which called group work and trying to answer the following questions which may help us to achieve a valuable outcome in the educational process:

1. Is there any effect of using group work and high scores achievements of students?
2. How does the group work effects on student performance, skills and behaviors?

1.2 Methodology

We use in this study the descriptive approach based on reviewing a lot of researches, educational literature and theoretical studies which related to the same topic; in purpose to show the relationship between high scores of students and learning by group work strategy. And also, the effect of group work on student performance, skills and behaviors.

2. The Definition of Group Work Strategy

Working in groups or working on a team, is one of the most important and most effective modern working patterns. It's a learning strategy in which the big groups are divided into small groups (with different levels of knowledge), each group consist of between 4 – 6 individuals, and members of the same group cooperate, interact and help each other in order to achieve a common



goal, it requires to have a desire and passion to work within the groups in which everyone feels responsible for learning and teaching each other in order to achieve required goals. (Beatrice A. Ward, 1987).

3. The Advantages of Group Work Strategy

Group work strategy has a lot of advantages according to many researches around the world which effect on achievements, performance, skills and behavior of the students. And the following is the most significant advantages of using group work strategy (Linda Martine, 2011):

1. Setting the students in the center of educational learning process.
2. Developing of individual and group responsibility.
3. Developing a spirit of cooperation and teamwork among students.
4. Giving the teacher an opportunity to follow and know the needs of students.
5. Exchanging ideas among students.
6. Respecting the views of others and accept their views.
7. Developing students self-learning.
8. Training students to solve the problem or participate in solving it.
9. Increasing the student's ability to make a decision.
10. Developing the skill of expressing feelings and perspectives.
11. Developing self-confidence.
12. Training students to adhere the ethics of listening and speaking.

4. The Disadvantages of Group Work Strategy



Even there are a lot of advantages for using this strategy however there are some negative points related to group work. And the following is the most disadvantages points of using group work strategy (Linda Martine, 2011):

1. The need of qualified teachers to guide student activity and define roles.
2. Most of the time it will be suffering from not bearing of large numbers and have narrow classes.
3. Need multiple and different ways to help cooperative learning.
4. It could not deepen with the scientific content.
5. It could be the reason for wasting time because the students may ask more questions.
6. It could be the reason for wasting and messing the information because more than one would to answer.
7. It could be a reason for not achieving the goals of the lesson because the teacher some time would have a long time to answer.

5. Group Work Strategy Objectives

Group Work strategy is very important and there are a lot of objectives for using it so we will present the most significant objectives. Group work strategy aims to achieve the following objectives (Beatrice A. Ward, 1987):

1. Inserting the spirit of cooperation among students.
2. Developing students' skills and improving them to a better level.
3. Blowing up the students' mental potential.
4. Taking responsibility.
5. Making the right decision.
6. Mastering the art of listening and responding directly.
7. Conclusion of information.



8. Fair competition that generates energy at the student.
9. Giving the student an opportunity to highlight his talents and mental abilities.
10. The power of concentration, attention and meditation.
11. Helping others and climbing to the top.

6. The Reasons Behind Using Group Work Strategy

First of all, to be assured that all members could be learned and it's a way to enhance all the members to participate in learning. Then it will learn the members how to work, cooperate, interact and help each other and all of that will affect on their behavior and performance inside the class or outside. After that, group work will improve the members perspectives and skills for themselves and for the environment around them. Furthermore, this strategy will enhance members to learn in different aspects which will fulfil their different required needs. (Beatrice A. Ward, 1987).

Research, studies and educational literature in the field of teaching have proved that group work is effective for achieving many goals in the cognitive aspects, skills and higher levels of thinking. It leads to create harmony between the group members regardless of the difference in type or class because everyone works together. The work brings them together and drives them to achieve their goals so that will achieve human social value. It focuses on group activities which need to be built and planned before they are implemented and the using of group work strategy needs to plan tools for follow-up and evaluation. Here we find that students not only learn how to learn but also learn how to think and cooperate. (Zaitoun, 1995).



7. How to Form Group Work and Make it More Effectively

Group work forming its not hard process however you should be aware and careful when you start shaping the groups and the following is the most significant steps you have to know. (Beatrice A. Ward, 1987):

1. In the beginning, it is necessary to determine the number of individuals to be entered into the group, based on several criteria; including: works size, time to accomplish each goal, and the required number in order to accomplish each goal accurately and quickly.
2. Individuals must be carefully chosen to achieve the desired harmony in the work and there must be a diversity of expertise, skills and knowledge to ensure that all members of the group benefit from each other.
3. It is important to establish clear and specific rules for groups work to avoid any differences of opinion and any possible conflicts. Furthermore, organizing working hours in terms of start and finish to avoid chaos, waste of time and loss of money.
4. You should distribute roles and tasks to all members of the group and specify the responsibility of each member.
5. Hold periodic meetings to discuss important issues and renew coordination among group members in order to to avoid any future chaos.

In order to make your group work more effectively you can follow these steps: Firstly, preparation; prepare your objectives for the group work which consist of both the academic goals and the social skills that you desire from the team to develop and also, use an appropriate tool to evaluate the work. After that, give your assistant to every member; discuss your tasks with the members including your objectives and how you will evaluate them then define the role for each group and the way that you will enhance them. Furthermore, monitor the whole groups; be aware and watch their interactions and progress. Finally, make a feedback for the whole process. (Johnson et al, 2006).



8. Related Works

Regarding to this study there are some studies and researches which deal with the group work strategy and its relation with high scores achievements, performance, skills and behaviors of students:

We will mention some of the important behaviors that students have to gain in group work, such as the process of communicating effectively with the members of the group with respect mutual commitment, work with the group to the end, accept opinions and not to annoy others, provide assistance to those who request it and stay away from selfishness (Mr. Biheiri, 2004; Mohammad Al Balushi, 2004; Mohammad Abdel Rahman, 2001).

Interaction in teamwork makes education better for children and that is not available in old teaching methods, teamwork enables children to express their opinions, find solutions, give explanations, and also enable them to build conceptual thinking and help them to develop communication and social interaction. So that will reduce the extreme shyness of children (Shamasna, 2003).

Penic & Foster study aimed to investigate the way in which cooperative groups learn to innovate in science as compared to individual learning, for the students of fourth and fifth grades. The results of the study showed that students who had studied in cooperative group way were more creative than students who had studied in the individual learning process. (Penic & Foster, 1985).

Okupomola study aimed to compare the impact of the cooperative learning method and the competitive learning on the performance of students in science. Study results showed that the collection of students who studied in cooperative group manner is better than who learned in competitive manner. (Okebokola, 1986).



Berge study aimed to investigate the impact of each group size and gender on the achievement and efficiency of the group and its ability to learn the science skills by using computer, the study sample was composed of 245 students from grades 7 and 8 who were randomly selected from 12 classrooms in three schools in different provinces. The results of the study showed statistically significant differences in achievement and efficiency for smaller-sized groups (2-4) (Berge, 1990).

lonning study aimed to investigate the impact of the learning method in small groups on verbal interaction and achievement by altering concepts in the science material for the tenth grade. The results of the study showed that students who had studied in a small cooperative group way were more likely to receive higher achievement than students who had studied through large groups. And also, the cooperative learning helps to verbal interaction and promotes conceptual change among students. (lonning, 1993).

Lazarowitz study aimed to investigate the impact of the use of cooperative learning on academic achievement, emotional aspects and student trends towards Earth Sciences material. The sample of the study was made up of 120 students from the 11th and 12th grades who studied Earth Sciences, and one teacher taught all groups using the group work method in the case of experimental groups and the individual learning method in the case of the other groups. The results of the study showed statistically significant differences in trends, achievement and emotional aspects in experimental groups. (Lazarowitz, 1994).

Tradewell study aimed to explore the impact of social interactions among undergraduate students who learn in a cooperative group way. The study sample was made up of students enrolled in the Nursing section program, who were divided into five groups. The results of the study showed that social interactions among students working in groups have an impact with medium-to high-level to learn the content of the course and have a moderate impact on professional development. The study attributed this positive impact to the exchange of experiences among students,



teamwork in addition to communication skills between the members of the group. (Tradewell, 2003).

9. Conclusions & Recommendations

This study found that group work strategy is so important these days and there are a lot of schools which apply it on their students. Even it takes a lot of time however the results gained is very useful and important for both teachers and students. Group work improves the learning, performance of students and thereby improves their achievements, skills and behavior.

Regarding to these findings, the following recommendations are set:

- Developing and preparing a content which accomplish the objective of this strategy.
- Group Work strategy could be used for teaching different subjects because it provides excellent results and solutions to some problems in teaching and learning environment and also, social interaction.
- Making further studies on the impact of using small groups and its relation to the achievements scores, social and emotional life of students.
- Conducting training courses for teachers in relation to learning in small groups, and how to use that strategy in different educational situation



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