

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF STUDENT CENTERED LEARNING

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What is Learner Centered Teaching (LCT) or Student Centered Teaching (SCT)?

Learner Centered Teaching is an approach that places the Learner or the students at the centre of the learning. This means that the learner or student is responsible for learning while the Teacher is responsible for facilitating the learning. This is also known as Student Centered Learning. Learner-centered education broadly encompasses methods of teaching that shift the focus of instruction from the teacher to the student. In original usage, student-centered learning aims to develop learner autonomy and independence by putting responsibility for the learning path in the hands of students by imparting them with skills and basis on how to learn a specific subject and skills required to measure up to the specific performance requirement. Student centered instruction focuses on skills and practices that enable lifelong learning and independent problem solving. Student centered learning theory and practice are based on the constructivist learning theory that emphasizes the learner's critical role in constructing meaning from new information and prior experience.

Student-centered learning puts students' interests first, acknowledging student voice as central to the learning experience. In a student-centered learning space, students choose what they will learn, how they will pace their learning, and how they will assess their own learning. This is in contrast to traditional education, also known as "Teacher Centered Learning", which situates the teacher as the primarily "active" role while students take a more "passive", receptive role. In a teacher-centered classroom, teachers choose what the students will learn, how the students will learn, and how the students will be assessed on their learning. In contrast, student-centered learning requires students to be active, responsible participants in

their own learning and with their own pace of learning.

Usage of the term "student-centered learning" may also simply refer to educational mindsets or instructional methods that recognize individual differences in learners. In this sense, student-centered learning emphasizes each student's interests, abilities, and learning styles, placing the teacher as a facilitator of learning for individuals rather than for the class as a whole.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Student Centered Learning

Advantages

Student-centered learning has advantages for both Students and Teachers. Students develop learning and other skills and gain meaningful knowledge that will help them throughout life. The relationship between rights and responsibilities is learned. Students discover that learning is interesting and fun. Several have written in their course evaluations that they learned more because they were involved and fun also being involved. Teachers have less traditional work to do, especially in the upper level classes during the latter portion of the academic term. Students are more attentive and willing to participate in the class. Complaints about irrelevant and unfairness decrease. Reports and papers generated by students increase a teacher's collection of useful information. Teacher evaluations do not decline and usually improve especially in upper level courses and teaching is interesting and fun.

Many researches show that student-centered learning is effective for every member of the classroom, because it takes into account their diverse learning needs and greatly increases their retention of both knowledge and skills. Moreover, it

emphasizes that learning requires active engagement by the students, so it works to engage students in learning. Students gain confidence in themselves as they take on new responsibilities. Student-centered learning enables students to develop the necessary workplace skills. It encourages innovation and creativity through deep learning and requires students to think about their learning, and about the issues and the problems. The student learns to be responsible for his own learning and actions. The student learns about things and likes working with others, team building, developing skills and how to be independent.

I think that one of the most advantages of student-centered learning is that it can be considered as a step forward to make the educational process efficient when it is applied. Through this strategy the student is no longer passive because he/she would be the core of the teaching and learning process in the classroom. Through the teacher centered system, the child was marginalized because the teacher was responsible for everything including explaining the material, engaging the students in the discussion and preparing the material. This kind of learning creates an atmosphere in which the student doesn't feel interested in the subject. However, with this new methodology students feel that they are very much engaged in the discussion. They also feel that they have the opportunity to express their ideas and to participate in the material being discussed. The student centered learning creates a kind of cooperative spirit among students because they almost participate in all activities that take place in the classroom and they work together.

The other one of the most important advantages of the student-centered learning is that it gives the chance for the students to operate, manage and monitor his own learning process under the supervision and the guidance of the teacher, so that he could train his self to be independent and this qualifies him to be a good future leader.

Another important advantage of the student-centered learning is that it stimulates students to initiate and monitor their own learning rather than depending on their teacher. It is clear that the

students are encouraged to be active and pursuance of the knowledge by themselves. This, I do believe, the upcoming generations of students will not need others to guide them or to tell them what they have to do.

Students have a control in the classroom. They are given more freedom to learn at their own pace and to review with no material left behind. Students get to feel confident without having to worry if everyone in the classroom gets the material but they do not. Students have hoped that they will pass with their own knowledge. Students tend to remember more. They learn things not for a test then lose the knowledge but instead learn to know the information. Therefore, student based learning is effective and helps students to diminish competition and to come to school for real knowledge and real thirst to learn

Disadvantages

One disadvantage is that there are students who do not relate well to student-centered learning in spite of a teacher's best efforts. This is most prevalent at the lower levels but can occur in upper level classes. Judging from course evaluations, this is about 15 percent of the lower level and less than 5 percent of the upper level. However, because there are many different teaching styles encountered at a university and college level. These students have the opportunity to learn in alternate ways in many other classes. Another disadvantage is that the students have to work in teams. They complain about being on teams. But most often the complaints are accompanied by acknowledgments that they understand that they are preparing for the 'real world'. They appreciate real world experiences even when they do not like them. Also students find it difficult to work in teams because they have lack team skills.

The design regards the child's present powers and interests as final yet his learning and achievements continuously change. It neglects critical social goals of education which all students must acquire. The design is expensive in terms of time, material and manpower. It relies too much on teacher's personality, initiative and intellect to be able to help pupils select the most significant activities for study.

Since pupils' interests and needs determine the structure of this design, the curriculum cannot be planned in advance.

We cannot determine that student who has great interest of math can be an engineer someday. Maybe if we limit him to expose on other areas, he might not be able to see his other potentials. If we just allow a intrinsic person to be alone always, he may not be able to work someday in other jobs that require to work with lots of people. Another thing, the teacher is expected at this kind of standard to be "taking an extra mile", just to provide the needs of every students she handle. That would create burnout for those teachers that need a lot of time to prepare lessons and varied strategy for the learners, as well as materials to be made. In a class, a learner who is different to others might likely want another strategy used by his classmate. Failed to get good grades or marks, the learner might blame it to the teacher for not giving the kind of strategy that is somewhat easier to his classmate. This kind of curriculum is only ideal if the students are few in a class.

Some more Advantages and Disadvantages of Student Centered Learning Advantages

- i. Students develop learning and other skills and gain meaningful knowledge that will help them throughout life.
- ii. It can help to build social skills and self-esteem.
- iii. And also students gain more emotional and cognitive support from their peers.
- iv. The relationship between rights and responsibilities is learned.
- v. Students discover that learning is interesting and fun.
- vi. Teachers have less traditional work to do.
- vii. Students are more attentive and willing to participate in the class.
- viii. Complaints about irrelevance and unfairness decrease.

- ix. Reports and papers generated by students increase a teacher's collection of useful information.
- x. The pupil has more of an active role to play in their learning.
- xi. Students can adapt the way they learn, to make their studies more effective.
- xii. The ideal situation for this type group work is that weaker students should be placed with more able students to act as scaffolding.
- xiii. Students work on projects or problems in teams with both personal and team accountability for conceptual understanding.
- xiv. Students work together in achieving goals by upholding the norms of the group.
- xv. Students are actively helping and motivating spirit to succeed together.
- xvi. Active role as peer tutors to further enhance the group's success.
- xvii. Interaction between students with increasing their ability to argue.

Disadvantage

1. It requires a longer time for students so it is difficult to achieve curriculum targets.
2. Take a long time for teachers so that teachers in general do not want to use cooperative learning.
3. It requires special skills of teachers so that not all teachers can do or use of cooperative learning.
4. Specific nature of student demands, such as the nature likes to work together.

References

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