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The Implementation and Impact of the Discussion Teaching Method on communication

This project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of bachelor in English at college of basic education, Salahaddin University-Erbil

Researchers:

Berivan L. Ali
Elham I. Abdulla

Supervised by:

Mrs. Shilan A. Hamdameen

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Section One Introduction

Implementing and impact the discussion teaching method to enhance communication, it is important to consider several key factors. Firstly, discussions provide an opportunity for students to actively engage in conversations, express their thoughts, and listen to different perspectives. This helps them develop effective communication skills and the ability to express their ideas clearly. Additionally, discussions promote critical thinking and a deeper understanding as students analyze various viewpoints, evaluate evidence, and engage in reasoning. This enables them to construct well-supported arguments and effectively communicate their thoughts.

This study which is entitled "The Implementation and Impact of the Discussion teaching Method on Communication" The discussion method is based on the exchange of ideas and thoughts. It stimulated group thinking and method helps the students engage in reflective learning. This method gives the students the freedom to express their thoughts without hesitation.

So, this research paper aims to focus on the importance of discussion method and its impact on communication and to show the difficulties in adapting discussion method.

A discussion method is defined as "the means by which people Share experiences, ideas and altitudes. It enable to engage in an orderly verbal interchange and lo express thoughts on a particular subject (Axelrod, J. Bloom.1949)

The study consists of four sections: section one is about introduction. Section two is about literature review which included: discussion teaching method, Processes of discussion teaching method, Impact of discussion method on learning ,importances of discussion teaching method in communication , advantages of discussion teaching method, disadvantages of discussion teaching method, types of discussion teaching method , seminar discussion teaching method, panel discussion teaching method , small group discussion teaching method, role play . Section three is about reflection and experience. Section four is about conclusion. The study ends with a list of references

Section Two Literature Review

2.1 Discussion Teaching Method.

The discussion teaching method involves fostering collaborative dialogue and active engagement among students to facilitate deeper learning and critical thinking, contrasting with traditional lecture-based approaches. In this method, structured conversations encourage students to share perspectives, challenge assumptions, and collectively construct knowledge. The teacher acts as a facilitator, guiding discussions, posing stimulating questions, and offering feedback to stimulate intellectual inquiry. Students are prompted to express thoughts, listen actively, and engage with diverse viewpoints, creating an inclusive environment. This method fosters active participation, enabling students to take ownership of their learning, develop communication skills, and connect theoretical concepts to real-world contexts. By grappling with complex ideas collaboratively, students cultivate higher-order thinking skills essential for academic success and lifelong learning, contributing to a dynamic classroom environment conducive to intellectual growth and skill development. (Brookfield, S. D., & Preskill, S. 2016) The discussion teaching method is all about getting students involved in their own learning. It's like having a conversation in the classroom, where everyone can share their ideas and thoughts. Instead of just listening to the teacher, students actively participate by asking questions, expressing their opinions, and discussing different perspectives. It's a way to make learning more interactive and engaging. By participating in discussions, students not only learn from the teacher but also learn from each other. It helps develop critical thinking skills, improves communication, and promotes a deeper understanding of the subject.

2.2 Process of Discussion Teaching Method

The discussion teaching method involves several essential steps:

- **Preparation** : Educators define learning objectives, choose relevant topics, and gather materials. This may entail researching, crafting discussion prompts, and strategizing facilitation methods.

- **Introduction** : Teachers introduce the topic, providing context and outlining the conversation's purpose. This could involve presenting key concepts, asking stimulating questions, or providing background information to engage students.
- **Guided Discussion** : Instructors facilitate the discussion by guiding the conversation, asking open-ended questions, and encouraging active student participation. The emphasis is on fostering collaborative dialogue, critical thinking, and exploring diverse viewpoints. Teachers may also intervene to clarify points or redirect the discussion as necessary.
- **Student Participation** : Students actively engage by sharing perspectives, asking questions, and responding to peers. They are urged to express their ideas, back arguments with evidence, and engage respectfully. Teachers cultivate an inclusive environment valuing all voices.
- **Reflection and Summation** : Towards the discussion's end, teachers lead reflection by summarizing key points, highlighting insights, and prompting students to reflect on their learning experiences. This could entail revisiting objectives, identifying further inquiry areas, or relating the discussion to broader contexts.
- **Assessment** : Teachers evaluate learning through various methods, including observing participation, assessing contributions, or assigning follow-up tasks. Assessment criteria may encompass critical thinking, communication skills, and depth of understanding (Brookfield, S. D., & Preskill, S. 2016).

2.2.1 Impact of Discussion Method On Learning

Discussions in the learning process have a significant impact and have been extensively researched. They promote active engagement, critical thinking, and deep understanding among students. Meaningful conversations and idea exchanges help students develop higher-order thinking skills, improve communication abilities, and gain a deeper grasp of the subject matter. According to (Johnson and Johnson1999), discussions foster positive interdependence and collaborative problem-solving, leading to enhanced academic achievement and social skill development. Additionally, (Hmelo-Silver , 2004) emphasizes the cognitive benefits of discussions, such as knowledge construction, concept connections, and nuanced understanding of complex topics. By incorporating discussions in the classroom, educators create

an interactive and engaging learning environment that empowers students to take ownership of their learning and develop critical thinking skills. Discussions have numerous positive effects on students. They encourage active engagement, critical thinking, and a deep understanding of the subject matter. discussions foster positive interdependence among students, leading to improved academic achievement and the development of social skills. Additionally, the cognitive benefits of discussions, such as constructing knowledge and establishing connections between concepts. By incorporating discussions into the learning process, educators empower students to take charge of their learning and cultivate critical thinking skills.

2.3 Importance Of Discussion Teaching Method in Communication

The discussion teaching method is key in enhancing communication skills among students. By having meaningful conversations, students can express their thoughts, actively listen, and develop effective communication strategies. Research by (Webb, Franke, 2013) highlights the importance of discussions in helping students articulate their ideas, ask questions, and respond to others' perspectives. This research emphasizes the positive impact of discussions on communication abilities. Additionally, (Lai and Kritsonis 2006) discuss how discussions provide a platform for students to practice expressing ideas, engaging in debates, and developing effective communication strategies. Incorporating discussions in education nurtures students' communication skills, allowing them to express thoughts, engage in conversations, and develop interpersonal skills.

- **Expression of Ideas:** Discussion-based learning offers students a platform to articulate their viewpoints, fostering effective communication skills (Brookfield & Preskill, 2016).
- **Active learning:** Participation in discussions cultivates active listening skills essential for comprehending diverse perspectives, thereby enhancing communication abilities (Johnson & Johnson, 2013).
- **Critical Thinking and Analysis :** Engaging in discussions facilitates critical analysis of information and the construction of well-supported arguments, promoting the development of communication and critical thinking skills (Chick, 2009).

2.3.1 Advantage Of Discussion Teaching Method

You're absolutely right! When discussing the advantages of the discussion teaching method, it's important to support our points with citations from educational researchers and experts. For example, (Tharp and Gallimore 1988) emphasize the significance of instructional conversations in fostering students' learning and understanding. (Similarly, Newmann 1990) highlights the value of substantive conversations in promoting student engagement and critical thinking. These citations add credibility to our claims and show that the benefits of discussion-based teaching have been recognized by scholars in the field.

Here are some additional advantages of the discussion teaching method:

- **Emphasis on learning instead of teaching:** The method encourages student activity through discussion, making it more effective.
- **Participation by everybody:** In discussions, everyone gets involved, leading to active thinking and learning.
- **Development of democratic thinking:** Discussions promote cooperation and respect for everyone's ideas, fostering a democratic mindset.
- **Training in reflective thinking:** Students gain practice in reflective thinking during discussions, leading to a deeper understanding of the topic.
- **Inculcation of tolerance:** Discussions teach students to discuss and respect differing viewpoints, fostering a spirit of tolerance.
- **Making learning interesting:** History, for example, can be perceived as dry, but the discussion method makes it more engaging. Active participation in discussions makes learning interesting and effective.

2.3.3 Disadvantage Of Discussion Teaching Method

It's important to acknowledge the potential disadvantages of the discussion teaching method as well. One disadvantage is that discussions can sometimes be time-consuming, especially if they are not well-structured or if there are too many participants. This can lead to limited time for covering other important content. Research by (Slavin 1994) discusses the potential drawback of

discussions in terms of the amount of time they require. The study suggests that in order to effectively implement discussions, teachers need to carefully plan and manage the time allocated for these activities. Another potential disadvantage is that some students may feel hesitant or uncomfortable participating in a group setting, which can lead to unequal participation and limited contributions from certain individuals. It's important for teachers to create a supportive and inclusive environment where all students feel encouraged to participate. Additionally, discussions may sometimes lack structure, making it challenging to cover all the necessary content within the allotted time. Striking a balance between open-ended exploration and maintaining a focused discussion is crucial. It's also important to have clear guidelines and keep the discussion on track to avoid off-topic conversations.

2.4 Types Of Discussion Teaching Method

2.4.1 Seminar Discussion Teaching Method

The seminar teaching method is a teaching approach where students engage in small group discussions, guided by teachers, to explore assigned questions and topics. The main goal is to promote learning through active participation and even confronting practical challenges (Jaarsma et al., 2008). The seminar teaching method involves students taking the initiative to preview course content, gather evidence, and share knowledge with peers. Unlike traditional lecture-based learning, which is often passive, the seminar method emphasizes interactive exchanges between teachers and students or among students themselves (Brown and Manogue, 2001) . Engaging in course preparation enhances students' ability to collect information and promotes active learning. It also develops skills such as listening, questioning, debating with evidence, and collaborating during discussions (Novak, 2002) . By fully mastering the subject matter through seminars, students can improve their learning outcomes So, it's a powerful method for deepening understanding and achieving academic success

2.4.2 Panel Discussion Teaching Method

Panel discussions have been found to be beneficial in language learning for fostering verbal confidence and participatory democracy (Weikel & Mangram, 1994; Larson, 2000). In this study, the authors explore students' perceptions of engaging in panel discussions during English language lessons. Panel

discussions serve as an alternative to traditional student-centered assignments, allowing for immediate responses and active participation. According to (Riasati and Nordin 2011), individuals who feel they lack communication proficiency may be reluctant to engage in communication. (Engle & Ochoa 1988) highlight the importance of panel discussions in encouraging students to support their ideas with evidence and engage in critical thinking. Panel discussions are a great way to encourage active participation and keep students engaged. As mentioned by (Cazden, 1988), these discussions allow students to not only enhance their cognitive abilities but also practice social interaction within the classroom. The discussants in the panel gain a deeper understanding of the topic, while their peers in the audience provide different perspectives, highlighting the social aspects of the discussion. This helps students become more aware of their social surroundings and the diverse viewpoints of others. Panel discussions are a unique form of student talk that adds a dynamic element to the classroom. They require students to engage in high-level cognitive and affective discussions about the subject matter. As Dillon simplified, discussions revolve around issues or topics that are being questioned, with participants putting forth and examining different proposals. This type of discussion promotes the development of higher-order thinking skills, enabling students to analyze, manipulate, and interpret information rather than simply memorizing facts. Additionally, panel discussions have the advantage of involving the entire class, as highlighted by Faust & Paulson, rather than just a few individuals.

2.5 Small Group Discussion Method of Teaching

Having interactive learning through small group discussions is an awesome opportunity to directly interact with learners and work towards specific goals. The instructor and students have direct communication and understand each other's thoughts by negotiating understandings and differences, and creating shared meanings. It's a student-centered approach that empowers students to take on responsibilities like planning activities, interacting with teachers and peers, conducting research, and assessing their learning. The small group setting already motivates students as the purpose and topic of discussion are clear. There's constant feedback and submission, leading to a deep understanding of the topic. Peers interact and develop strong relationships with each other and with the teacher. So, interactive learning is a fantastic way to enhance metacognition of the subject matter, making exam preparation and assignments a breeze. Small group discussions are super helpful for making sure learners remember the important stuff. Unlike boring lectures, small group discussions let students interact with each other a lot. They can share their thoughts, ideas,

and experiences easily in this interactive learning setup. It's a chance for students to show off their skills and come up with cool new ideas while getting positive feedback from the teacher. The environment is open-minded and supportive, which makes students feel cared for and comfortable enough to share their weaknesses. Small group discussions are especially great for shy students who might feel more confident participating in a smaller group. It helps them overcome their fears and build confidence. Plus, it's a fantastic way for students from different backgrounds to get to know each other quickly. So, interactive learning through small group discussions is awesome for creating a friendly and inclusive learning environment. According to(Hande 2014) small group discussions provide an excellent opportunity for students to work on their opinions and improve their self-directed learning skills. Teachers can develop innovative learning formats in a supportive and enjoyable environment to address both perceived and unperceived educational need . In the context of premedical settings teachers can effectively utilize virtual and physical resources while teaching in small groups. It's a crucial skill for healthcare professionals to work well in small groups, as it prepares them for the challenges of the contemporary healthcare environment. Small group learning also serves as a grooming ground for students, encouraging them to rethink and question their views and positions. (Mick and Alexander 2013) highlight that students can weave together their different contributions and insights, recognizing their interests and agendas. The immediate and detailed feedback from peers and teachers makes the group dynamic, vibrant, and motivated throughout the discussion.

2.5.1 Role Play Discussion Teaching Method

Role play exercises allow students to take on different roles and act out scenarios. These scenarios can be done individually, in pairs, or in groups. Role plays provide a chance for students to experience real-life situations and explore their own feelings towards others and their circumstances. Unlike simulations and games, role play exercises are usually short and spontaneous presentations, but they can also be prearranged research assignments. Role play exercises are a great way for students to step into different roles and act out various scenarios. They can do it alone, in pairs, or even in groups. It's a fantastic opportunity for them to immerse themselves in real-life situations and explore their own emotions and perspectives. Unlike simulations and games, role play exercises are usually shorter and more spontaneous, but they can also be planned ahead as research assignments(Bonwell & Eison, 1991).

Benefits of Role Playing

Role playing can be effectively used in the classroom to:

- Role playing in the classroom can help students stay motivated and engaged
- It enhances the effectiveness of current teaching strategies.
- By providing real-world scenarios, it helps students learn in a practical and meaningful way.
- Students can develop skills that are applicable in real-life situations, such as negotiation, debate, teamwork, cooperation, and persuasion.
- Role playing also allows for critical observation of peers, promoting a supportive and collaborative learning environment.

Guidelines in Developing Role Playing Exercises Using a set of guidelines can be helpful in planning role playing exercise. Harbour and Connick (2005) offer the following:

- For graded role playing exercises, start with small, non-graded role plays to help students prepare
- Decide how the role play will be assessed, including the use of assessment rubrics and sharing feedback.
- Emphasize that the role play is about communicating the message, not just the person acting.
- Connect the role plays to the learning objectives to show their relevance.
- Give students time to practice and break down the content into smaller sections for effective presentation.
- Explain the purpose of the role play and address any student questions.
- Provide guidelines for general presentation behavior, such as eye contact and gestures.

- Specify the use of props and the appropriate language to be used.
- Emphasize the importance of content-related vocabulary and avoiding profanity and slang.
- Ensure equal challenge for all students to promote fair assessment.

Section Three

Experiences and Reflections

3.1. Experience

Discussion teaching method is an essential part of process of teaching.. It means that the discussion teaching method plays a significant role in the overall process of teaching. It involves creating opportunities for students to engage in conversations, share their perspectives, and actively participate in the learning experience. This method promotes critical thinking, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of the subject matter. we were encouraged to express our thoughts, ask questions, and challenge each other's ideas in a respectful and constructive manner. It was a space where everyone's voice mattered and we could learn from one another's perspectives. We found that this approach not only made the learning process more enjoyable, but it also helped us develop critical thinking skills and gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter. One of the things we loved most about the discussion teaching method was the opportunity to see different viewpoints and explore diverse opinions. It opened our mind to new ideas and made us realize that there isn't always a single right answer. Instead, there can be multiple valid perspectives, and through discussion, we could learn from each other's insights. We were also appreciated how the teacher facilitated these discussions. They would often provide thought-provoking prompts or present us with real-life scenarios that related to the topic at hand. This helped us connect the theoretical concepts to practical situations, making the learning experience more relevant and applicable. Furthermore, the discussions fostered a sense of community within the classroom. We were got to know our classmates on a deeper level, and it created a supportive and collaborative learning environment. It was amazing to witness the growth and development of everyone's ideas throughout the discussions, as we challenged and built upon each other's thoughts. Overall, the discussion teaching method truly transformed our learning experience. It made us an active participant in my education, encouraged critical thinking, and helped us develop valuable communication and collaboration skills. We believed that this approach not only enhances academic learning but also prepares us for real-world situations where the ability to engage in thoughtful discussions is crucial

3.2. Reflection

it comes to the implementation and impact of the discussion teaching method on communication, there are some interesting things to consider. Discussions can be a great way to promote active engagement, critical thinking, and deep understanding among students. By encouraging students to actively participate and share their thoughts, discussions create an environment where ideas can be explored and different perspectives can be heard. One of the key benefits of discussions is that they enhance communication skills. Through the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to express themselves, students can develop their ability to articulate their thoughts, listen actively to others, and engage in meaningful conversations. This is particularly important in today's world, where effective communication is crucial in various aspects of life. Moreover, discussions foster a supportive and inclusive environment. When students feel encouraged to share their opinions and ideas without fear of judgment, it creates a safe space for open dialogue and collaboration. This not only enhances communication skills but also promotes empathy, respect, and understanding among students. Another concept that relates to discussions is accountable talk. This refers to a form of communication where students are encouraged to provide evidence, justify their claims, and build on each other's ideas. Accountable talk not only enhances the quality of discussions but also promotes critical thinking and deeper understanding of the subject matter. However, it's important to acknowledge that there can be potential disadvantages to the discussion teaching method. For example, discussions can be time-consuming if not well-structured. This may lead to limited time for covering other content in the curriculum. Additionally, unequal participation and limited contributions from certain students can be a challenge in discussions. It's important for educators to create a supportive environment where all students feel comfortable and encouraged to participate. Overall, discussions have the potential to greatly enhance communication and interpersonal skills among students. By creating an environment that fosters active engagement, critical thinking, and respectful dialogue, discussions can empower students to become effective communicators and lifelong learners.

Section Four

Conclusions

The discussion teaching method is all about getting students to work together and have meaningful conversations. When students engage in these discussions, they develop important communication skills that are super valuable in different areas of life. One of the key benefits is active listening. Through discussions, students learn to really pay attention to what their peers are saying, understand their perspectives, and respond thoughtfully. This helps them become better listeners, which is crucial for effective communication. Another benefit is the boost in critical thinking abilities. When students participate in discussions, they're encouraged to analyze information, evaluate different viewpoints, and form their own opinions. This skill is essential because it allows individuals to express their thoughts, support their arguments, and engage in meaningful conversations. Empathy is also fostered through the discussion teaching method. By actively participating in discussions, students are exposed to different perspectives and experiences. This exposure helps them develop empathy and understanding towards others, which is the key of effective communication. Empathy allows individuals to connect with others, respect diverse opinions, and have productive conversations. The discussion teaching method helps students become more confident in expressing themselves. Through discussions, they have the chance to articulate their thoughts, share their ideas, and present their arguments. This practice builds their confidence and empowers them to communicate clearly and . The discussion teaching method enhances communication skills by improving active listening, critical thinking, empathy, and effective expression. It creates a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students can grow and succeed in various settings. It's a fantastic approach that prepares students for success in their academic and personal lives .

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