

## **A Study on Benefits and Challenges of Peer Teaching with Special Reference to Thrissur Corporation**

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### **Abstract**

With the aim of highlighting both the benefits and inherent challenges that peer teaching in educational contexts brings, this study investigates the complicated topic of peer teaching. Through a careful review of the body of research and empirical evidence, we explore how peer teaching impacts learners' cognitive, social, and emotional development. Better academic outcomes, more self-esteem, and the growth of critical interpersonal skills are all benefits. Also covered in the study are the challenges of peer teaching, including issues with power dynamics, knowledge gaps, and potential conflicts. This study used a descriptive research style and included both quantitative and qualitative data. This study explores the efficacy of peer teaching strategies in various educational environments. Data was gathered from a sample of 138 students enrolled in various courses adopting peer teaching practice through mixed-methods analysis. The quantitative investigation revealed a considerable improvement in student learning results. The findings of qualitative research provided a nuanced viewpoint on the benefits and limitations of the peer teaching technique. The results suggest that instructors can improve learning outcomes and student engagement by implementing peer teaching strategies.

**Keywords:** Peer Teaching, Academic Outcomes, Knowledge Gap

**INTRODUCTION:** In contemporary education, the concept of peer teaching has emerged as a promising strategy to enhance student engagement, foster a deeper understanding of subjects, and cultivate a sense of community within the learning

environment. Peer teaching, also referred to as peer-assisted learning or peer tutoring, is an educational approach that involves students instructing and assisting their fellow classmates. This method has gained traction in various educational settings due to its potential to enhance learning experiences. In this discussion, we will explore the benefits and challenges associated with peer teaching, shedding light on how it can be a valuable tool in the realm of education while also acknowledging potential hurdles that educators and students may encounter. As educators and institutions increasingly explore alternative teaching methodologies, the role of peers as educators becomes a focal point of investigation. This research aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge by shedding light on the diverse benefits and potential obstacles associated with peer teaching.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Understanding the benefits and challenges associated with peer teaching is vital for educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers as they navigate the landscape of modern education. By unravelling the

intricacies of peer teaching, this research aims to provide evidence-based insights that can inform pedagogical practices, curriculum design, and educational policies, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of the overall learning experience.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To identify and analyse the perceived benefits of peer teaching for both the student instructors and their peers
- To investigate the challenges faced by students and educators in implementing peer teaching methods and strategies

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Both primary and secondary data were utilized in the investigation. However, main data was used extensively, and secondary data was used to enhance the original data. The research methodology, which incorporates a quantitative approach, uses a survey questionnaire to collect data from 138 different college students affiliated with Thrissur Corporation. The basic data was obtained by the use of convenient sampling. Secondary data provides support for the primary data. Books, journals, and other written sources provide secondary data.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Goldschmid, B., & Goldschmid, M. L. (1976).** Peer teaching in higher education: A review. An evaluation. According to higher education, Peer teaching has grown in acceptance in higher education. Political, social psychological, educational, and economic issues have led to this present interest. A few of the peer-teaching strategies that have emerged are student learning groups, the learning cell, proctoring (PSI), student counselling of students (parrainage), and discussion groups facilitated by undergraduate students. Choosing a student partner, the responsibilities of the student teacher, cooperation vs. competition, the structure of the learning environment, preparing the student teachers, the benefits of peer teaching, the role of the professor, financial considerations, and instructional facilities are just a few of the challenges and issues that an instructor may encounter when using undergraduates as teachers. Based on the data that was analyzed, peer teaching, which is effective when combined with other teaching and learning strategies, has huge potentials for both student and teacher.

**Rees, E. L., Quinn, P. J., Davies, B., & Fotheringham, V. (2016).** How does peer teaching compare to faculty teaching? This study, which combines a systematic review and meta-analysis, looks for studies on peer teaching in higher education and assesses the benefits of the practice for both tutees and tutors. There were thirty studies included in the review. There is representation from thirteen countries, with two thirds of the research conducted in the United States or the United Kingdom. Many works from the natural science and physical science domains are present. The leading theory and ideology in education is social constructivism. The most common type of research design is the use of quasi-experimental pre- and post-testing. Academic experts aren't always in agreement that peer teaching promotes deeper learning or higher academic achievement. Additional advantages of education include improving students' motivation, learning autonomy, and critical thinking.

**Secomb, J. (2008).** A systematic review of peer teaching and learning in clinical

education. *Journal of clinical nursing*, 17(6), 703-716. It is evident that peer teaching is a holistic approach to education that is crucial in nurturing effective and empathetic youth leaders (Bhavya. R., 2023). The purpose of this study is to describe a framework for peer teaching and learning for undergraduate health science students in clinical settings, as well as to emphasize the benefits and drawbacks of this kind of instruction. The author conducted an internet database search

for health science and educational literature using the phrases peer, clinical education, and undergraduate. Only English-language publications, those released after 1980 (including 2005), and research papers were exempt. After a comprehensive critical and quality review using a specially designed methodology, studies were selected according to participant, intervention, study design, and learning objectives.

## **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**TABLE I: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS**

<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>CATEGORIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Gender	Male	67	49%
	Female	71	51%
	15-20	82	59%

Age Group	20-25	56	41%
Course Pursuing	PG	56	41%
	UG	82	59%

**INTERPRETATION:** It is evident from the demographic profile that 51% of the respondents are female and fall within the 15–20 age range. Additionally, 59% of those surveyed are pursuing an undergraduate degree.

**TABLE II: BENEFITS OF PEER TEACHING**

FACTORS	LEVEL OF AGREEABLENESS					MEAN	RANK
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		

	Agree						
Enhanced Understanding	39	46	23	17	13	3.58	IV
Increased Retention	41	47	19	21	10	3.63	III
Promotion of Active Learning	53	31	18	15	21	3.57	V
Building A supportive Learning Community	54	38	25	11	10	3.83	I
Development of leadership skills	56	33	12	25	12	3.68	II

Source: Primary

INTERPRETATION: Peer teaching benefits include improved understanding, creating a caring learning community, developing

leadership qualities, etc. Of these, the majority of respondents concur that peer teaching fosters the creation of a welcoming

learning environment. The second point of agreement among respondents is the importance of leadership development. The

other advantages of peer teaching include improved learning and increased retention.

**TABLE III: CHALLENGES OF PEER TEACHING**

FACTORS	LEVEL OF AGREEABLENESS					MEAN	RANK
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
Lack of Authority	41	36	12	27	22	3.34	III
Unequal Participation	35	37	19	29	18	3.30	IV
Resistance to Peer Instruction	46	53	11	16	12	3.76	II
Inadequate Training	31	37	15	26	29	3.10	V

and Support							
Social Dynamics and Peer Pressure	53	46	13	18	10	4.1	I

Source: Primary

**INTERPRETATION:** Peer pressure and resistance to peer education rank top and second, respectively, among the difficulties in teaching social dynamics to peers. Other difficulties include a lack of authority, uneven involvement, and insufficient assistance and training, among other things.

**TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS**

H0: There is no significant increase in retention and enhanced understanding through peer teaching measure

Satisfaction Level	No of respondents	Test statistics	P Value at 5% level of significance	Accept/Reject
Strongly Agree	41			
Agree	47			



Neutral	19	3.5085	.012352	REJECT
Disagree	21			
Strongly Disagree	10			
Total	138			

Test distribution: Normal

Test: One tailed

**INTERPRETATION:** The t test at level of significance @5% rejects null hypothesis since p value is .012352. As a result, there is significant increase in retention and enhanced understanding through peer teaching measures.

**FINDINGS**

- The majority of study participants are female and enrolled in undergraduate programmes.
- Teaching them through peer interaction has several advantages. Construction The creation of a supportive learning community

comes first, followed by the growth of leadership abilities. Other advantages of peer teaching include improved learning, increased retention, and the encouragement of active learning.

- The biggest obstacle to peer teaching social dynamics and peer pressure is resistance to peer education, which comes in second. Other difficulties include a lack of authority, uneven involvement, and insufficient assistance and training, among other things.
- Peer teaching strategies result in a notable improvement in comprehension and retention.

## SUGGESTIONS

- Incorporate peer teaching into teacher preparation programmes.
- Modify the curriculum to enable peer teaching that is more effective.
- Provide guidance on how to integrate peer teaching into the official education system.
- To encourage peer teaching, look for chances for regular instructors and student teachers to grow professionally.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research on the advantages and difficulties of peer teaching shows that educational environments are dynamic and multifaceted. Peer teaching is proving to be a powerful method with a lot of advantages, such better academic performance, more student participation, and the development of important communication and interpersonal skills. Students who take on the role of teachers not only improve their subject-matter expertise but also foster a cooperative and encouraging learning atmosphere. In essence, peer teaching research is a paradigm shift towards student-centered,

more interactive learning strategies. Understanding the mutually beneficial relationship between advantages and challenges when navigating the educational system can pave the way for a more engaging, inclusive, and successful learning environment for all students.

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