

InSchool Innovation In Early School Leaving Peer Education

What is a Peer?

Peer: A person who has equal standing with another or others, as in rank, class, socio-economic situation.

What is Peer Education?

Peer education is a term widely used to describe a range of initiatives where young people from a similar age group, background, culture and/or social status educate and inform each other about a wide variety of issues.

There are two important elements here:

- Students
- Peer Educators

The Aim of Peer Education

- With Peer Education, students can gain knowledge and skills to strengthen their communities, advocate for themselves and their needs and assert more control over their lives.
- Peer education can be done both in small groups and pair work.
- Peer education can be done at schools, hospitals, factories, etc.

Background

It's an approach which was developed with the aim of reintegration of young people, who couldn't adopt to formal education system or stayed out of school, into school or society.

Then it was developed to include all students and workers.

Why Peer Education?

- It ensures the influence of peers in a positive way.
- Peers are reliable and credible source of information for each other as they share the same experience and the same social norms.
- It fits into students' own learning steps, detection levels and learning styles.
- The feedback and correction will be given instantly in this process.
- Students learn through their natural learning speed as there is no comparison.
- More attention and more emotional support will be given to students who have more emotional needs.
- Peer educators will benefit the most from this process.
- Peer education reduces competition and creates a more supportive classroom environment.
- Peer Educators can better understand the others problems as they share the same cognitive abilities with the ones at the same age.

Peer Education at School

Peer Education is a method which students help others and learn by teaching.

It's a process which a talented student teach another at the same level with the guidance of a teacher.

The Training of Peer Educators

The selected or volunteer peer educators should be included in 'Peer Education Programme' first before teaching.

This Programme was prepared in detail and include 11 sessions:

Peer Education Programme

- 1st Session: Introduction to Peer Education, Presentation
- 2nd Session: The Icebreaking and Activation Techniques.
- 3rd Session: Presentation Skills
- 4th Session: Planning a Lesson Plan
- 5th Session: Personal Competences
- 6th Session: Communication
- 7th Session: Building Groups/Teams
- 8th Session: Social Competences
- 9th Session: Evaluation
- 10th Session: Disability and Mental Health Awareness
- 11th Session: Managing Application Sessions.

The Qualities of Peer Educators

At the end of the programme peer educators are hoped to gain the qualities below:

- Should be conducive and enabling
- Listening and comprehension skills
- Respect for differences (every individual is unique)
- Be confidential
- Empathy
- Carefulness
- Sensitivity
- Communication Skills
- Motivational Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Time Management Skills
- Lesson Planning Skills
- Ability to receive feedback from learners

Methods and Techniques

Interactive Techniques are used to make students more active in the process of training

Typical Approaches in Peer Education are:

- Discussion
- Presentation
- Role play
- Physical activities
- Stories
- Music
- Art
- Theatre

Students are encouraged to be active in the learning process.