

# Chapter 16

## The Power of Peer Review: Harnessing Collaborative Insights for Authentic Assessment

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### ABSTRACT

*This chapter delves into the transformative power of peer review in educational settings, exploring its application in fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and metacognitive skills among students. It examines various peer review methodologies, emphasizing their role in enhancing student engagement, motivation, and soft skills development. The chapter highlights the significance of integrating peer review into teaching strategies, outlining its benefits in building a cooperative learning environment. Through case studies and practical applications, the chapter demonstrates the efficacy of peer review in improving academic outcomes and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in educational practices.*

### INTRODUCTION

In Education field, peer review is a collaborative learning technique wherein students assess other student's work and provide feedback to help them improve the overall learning process. It also assists the students to get insights and gain understanding about peer's work; hence, it tends to improve the quality of the learning experience. In many literatures, peer review is referred to peer evaluation, response or

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peer assessment in which students are involved to review the material from critical perspective with different approaches (Topping, 2023). This activity is typically beneficial in triggering critical reasoning and self-assessment skills in students. Peer review has proved to be a powerful evaluation strategy which brings numerous advantages to the students such as facilitating student's acquisition and developing skills that promotes self-direction of own learning.

In recent years, the concept of peer review in higher education has gained attention due to its impact on collaborative learning. Over three decades, peer review has been used in different disciplines and especially in education as a formative process that aims to improve student's learning experience. In student-learning context, peer review is termed as a process wherein students evaluate the value and quality of fellow student's work by simply giving feedback or response as per own understanding. As per the study of Peters et al., (2023), student peer- review shifts the traditional notion of assessment by teachers only as it encourages the students to take an active role in managing their own learning.

In contemporary classrooms, peer- review comes in varied forms such as evaluating written assessments, oral presentations, artwork, programming and code reviews in different teamwork. In classrooms, the activity of peer review is used to help students invest in writing and to understand the relationship between their writing and their coursework. Hence, it engages the learners to encourage self-reflexivity which eventually fosters critical thinking skills (Noroozi et al., 2023). At the same time, it provides a structured learning process for the students wherein they can assess other's work and develop collaborative learning experience by focusing on new techniques and ways to improve the learning journey. Peer review assist the students to engage in metacognitive reflection in which they learn the correct as well as incorrect aspects in the answers by understanding the criteria outlined by the instructors. Therefore, this is effective in opening doors for collaborative exchange of ideas among students which not only improves their understanding but also helps them to produce better work in the future. Hence, according to contemporary classroom settings, peer review is more likely to create a cohesive community which develops various skills in students such as communication, collaboration and critical thinking ability (Martin & Bolliger, 2023).

## **Role of Peer Review in Education**

It encourages students to evaluate the work of others which is an important prospect of developing critical thinking skills as this requires analyzing competencies as well as weaknesses of fellow student's work. Also, engaging the students in peer review sessions allows them to receive as well as provide constructive feedback on their writing skills. This is helpful in refining the work. From the recent study of Werder & Otis (2023), it is analyzed that peer review process empowers the students to take ownership of their own learning as it shifts the role of instructor from being evaluator of own work (Alqodsi, E., & Aljahoori, 2023).

## **Objectives of the Chapter**

- To analyze the benefits of peer reviews in educational setting
- To ascertain the impact of peer review on student's learning and skill development
- To analyze criteria that is used to design peer review activities.

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