Leading Effective Small Group Sessions

Role of learners in effective small group sessions
- Be actively involved in the process of learning by:
  - Articulating what they know
  - Wrestling with the limits of their understanding
  - Engaging with others while seeking solutions to a problem
- Share experiences and observations
- Ask questions
- Get feedback
- Learn from peers
- Take more responsibility for their own learning
- Foster collaborative and interactive skills

Role of Small Group Leaders
- Not to lecture
- Listen
- Question
- Make visible and challenge underlying assumptions
- Encourage balanced discussion
- Allow silences
- Speak judiciously
- Pay attention to: learning climate, group process, and learner’s concerns, interests and experiences.
- Allow learners to express uncertainty
- Admit knowledge limitations
- Encourage further group/self-study
- Promote active discussion by:
  - Preparing for the session
  - Previewing the content and process of discussion
  - Actively involve all learners while monitoring the group process
  - Cover content
  - Summarize the discussion

Benefits of effective small group sessions
- Stimulates thinking
- Promotes deep engagement with the topic
- Overcomes misunderstandings
- Motivates learning

Reference

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