

IV. Group Problem-Solving and Decision-Making Tasks

What Is Group Problem-Solving?

It's a process where a group of people **work together** to find solutions to a problem by:

- Sharing ideas
- Discussing options
- Analyzing consequences
- Selecting the best solution

What Is Group Decision-Making?

It's when a group collectively makes a decision after considering various options, viewpoints, and possible outcomes.

Why Is It Important?

- Encourages teamwork and collaboration
- Uses diverse ideas and perspectives
- Helps in making better, balanced decisions
- Builds critical thinking and leadership skills

Steps in Group Problem-Solving and Decision-Making

1. Identify the Problem Clearly

Define what needs to be solved.

2. Gather and Share Information

Everyone contributes facts and ideas.

3. Discuss Possible Solutions

Brainstorm multiple ways to solve the problem.

4. Evaluate the Solutions

Check pros, cons, and possible outcomes.

5. Select the Best Solution

Choose the option that's most effective and practical.

6. Plan and Implement the Decision

Decide who will do what and when.

7. Review the Outcome

Check if the problem was solved successfully.

Example Task:

Problem:

The college library has limited study space, and many students are unable to find seating during exams.

Group Decision-Making Task:

Students form groups to suggest solutions.

Ideas Discussed:

- Extend library hours
- Open classrooms as temporary study areas
- Limit study time per student during peak hours
- Provide an online booking system for seats

Solution Chosen:

Open extra classrooms as temporary study areas during exams

Reason: It's cost-effective, quick to arrange, and benefits most students.

Plan:

Prepare a schedule, assign staff, and inform students via notice boards and WhatsApp groups.

Quick Tips for Effective Group Tasks:

- * Listen actively to every member
- * Respect all opinions
- * Stay focused on the problem
- * Avoid conflicts and personal criticism
- * Summarize and confirm decisions before ending the discussion

Conclusion:

Group problem-solving and decision-making tasks promote effective teamwork, improve decision quality, and help develop essential life and workplace skills.
