

# Enhancing Mathematics Education Through Collaborative Learning: A Study of Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) Models within Realistic Mathematics Education

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## Abstract

This study evaluates the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models in Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) arithmetic learning activities. The study examines how collaborative pedagogical methods affect students' mathematical ability, problem-solving skills, and participation in varied educational environments. A quasi-experimental approach included various participant groups of varying grade levels and academic skills. To evaluate results, the research methodology included quantitative assessments, qualitative observations, questionnaires, interviews, and data analysis. After PMR used Ts-Ts and TPS models, pupils' mathematics understanding improved significantly. Quantitative studies showed improved test results, indicating student proficiency. Qualitative evaluations showed higher engagement, dynamic peer interactions, and deeper conceptual understanding during collaborative learning. Student questionnaires and educator interviews confirmed that these models promote communication, critical thinking, and math applications. TPS highlighted systematic individual contemplation and inclusive involvement, while Ts-Ts promoted vibrant group conversations. The results imply that the Ts-Ts and TPS models work together to promote collaborative learning and accommodate varied learning styles. Integrating these concepts into curriculum frameworks, promoting educator professional development, and pushing for inclusive mathematical education policy are recommended.

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## Introduction

Mathematics education often faces challenges in engaging students, fostering conceptual understanding, and promoting problem-solving skills (English & Gainsburg, 2015). Traditional teaching methods often focus on rote memorization and procedural learning, leading to a lack of deeper comprehension and applicability of mathematical concepts in real-life situations.

Mathematics education continues to be a critical area of focus globally, aiming not only to impart mathematical skills but also to cultivate problem-solving abilities and critical thinking in

students (Szabo et al., 2020). Traditional teaching methods often fall short in engaging students and fostering a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Hence, innovative pedagogical approaches have gained attention to enhance the quality of math education.

The Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) approach is rooted in the belief that mathematics should be taught in a way that connects to real-life contexts, making it more accessible and meaningful to learners (Hwang & Ham, 2021). PMR emphasizes problem-solving, mathematical modeling, and the use of authentic situations to develop mathematical understanding.

In this context, the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models have emerged as active learning strategies that promote student engagement and collaboration (Ardiyani, 2018). The Ts-Ts model involves students working in pairs or small groups to solve problems, followed by them moving to other groups to share and discuss solutions. On the other hand, TPS encourages students to think individually, pair up to discuss their thoughts, and then share their ideas with the whole class.

The Ts-Ts and TPS models represent a departure from conventional teaching methodologies by prioritizing active student involvement (Stiegelbauer, 1986). These models foster engagement through collaborative problem-solving and peer interaction. Ts-Ts involves students working in pairs or small groups to solve mathematical problems and then sharing their solutions with other groups. TPS, on the other hand, encourages individual reflection followed by pairing up to discuss ideas before sharing them with the larger class. These methods not only promote critical thinking but also cultivate communication skills and collaborative learning, which are integral components of mathematical proficiency (Supena et al., 2021).

Moreover, in the realm of mathematics education, the Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) approach has gained prominence for its emphasis on contextualizing mathematical concepts within real-life situations (Guinda, 2015). PMR focuses on making mathematics more accessible and relevant by connecting abstract mathematical ideas to practical, everyday scenarios (Qomario et al., 2020). The integration of Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR framework holds the potential to further amplify the effectiveness of this approach. By leveraging these interactive models, educators can create dynamic learning environments that align with PMR's goal of fostering conceptual understanding through real-world applications.

Furthermore, the significance of exploring the Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR approach lies in their ability to cater to diverse learning styles and promote inclusivity in mathematics education. These models facilitate differentiated instruction by allowing students to engage with mathematical concepts through multiple perspectives. For instance, the collaborative nature of Ts-Ts and the structured discussions of TPS accommodate varying learning paces and preferences, catering to both extroverted and introverted learners. Consequently, this can lead to increased student participation, improved retention of mathematical concepts, and a more inclusive classroom environment.

Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) stands as a pivotal approach in modern educational paradigms, particularly in the realm of mathematics instruction (Nunez, 2012). Its relevance and importance in the context of contemporary mathematics education are underscored by several key aspects that fundamentally transform the way students perceive, engage with, and understand mathematical concepts.

Firstly, PMR is pertinent due to its departure from abstract, disconnected mathematical teaching towards a more contextualized and meaningful learning experience (Kayad, 2015). Mathematics, often viewed as a collection of abstract symbols and formulas, can become intimidating and distant for many students. PMR addresses this challenge by embedding mathematical concepts within real-world contexts, thus making them more tangible and relatable (Sulaiman, 2011). By anchoring mathematical ideas in familiar settings, such as everyday problems, real-life scenarios, or practical applications, PMR bridges the gap between theoretical concepts and their actual utility, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of mathematics.

Moreover, the relevance of PMR in mathematics education stems from its emphasis on problem-solving and mathematical modeling. In today's dynamic world, the ability to apply mathematical principles to solve real-life problems is a crucial skill. PMR cultivates this skill by

encouraging students to explore, investigate, and solve problems within authentic contexts (Baharin et al., 2018). This approach not only enhances students' problem-solving abilities but also nurtures their critical thinking and analytical skills, preparing them to navigate the complexities of the real world where mathematical reasoning is essential.

Furthermore, PMR promotes active student involvement and engagement by providing opportunities for exploration and discovery. Traditional mathematics education often relies on rote memorization and procedural learning, neglecting the importance of conceptual understanding (Baroody, 2013). PMR challenges this approach by encouraging students to explore mathematical concepts through various representations, manipulatives, and collaborative activities. By engaging in hands-on experiences and interactive tasks, students develop a deeper conceptual understanding of mathematical ideas, paving the way for a more robust mathematical foundation.

Additionally, PMR aligns with the principles of inclusivity and differentiated instruction, making it a relevant and important approach in the diverse landscape of mathematics education (Wakeman et al., 2021). It acknowledges and respects the diverse backgrounds, interests, and learning styles of students. By presenting mathematics in diverse, meaningful contexts, PMR caters to the varied needs of learners, allowing for personalized learning experiences. This inclusivity fosters a supportive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to engage meaningfully with mathematical concepts, irrespective of their prior experiences or abilities.

While previous studies have separately examined the effectiveness of Ts-Ts, TPS, and PMR in mathematics education, there remains a gap in understanding how these models interact and complement each other (Penttinen, 2015). This research seeks to fill this gap by investigating the combined impact of Ts-Ts and TPS within the PMR framework on mathematics learning activities.

The rationale behind this research stems from the need to explore and evaluate the effectiveness of these interactive learning models, Ts-Ts and TPS, within the framework of Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) specifically in the context of mathematics learning activities. The aim is to assess how these models align with the PMR approach and whether they contribute positively to enhancing students' mathematical understanding, problem-solving skills, and overall engagement in learning.

Understanding the efficacy of these models in a Realistic Mathematics Education setting could potentially revolutionize teaching practices, offering educators insights into more effective and engaging methods to teach mathematics (Smith, 1996). By investigating the interplay between these models and the PMR approach, this research seeks to contribute valuable knowledge that can inform instructional strategies, curriculum development, and pedagogical approaches in mathematics education.

## Methods

The research methodology employed in investigating the effectiveness of the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models within the framework of Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) involved a comprehensive approach encompassing experimental design, participant demographics, data collection methods, and analytical techniques. This methodology was crucial in obtaining nuanced insights into the interplay of these pedagogical models in mathematics education (Abrahamson & Sánchez-García, 2016).

The experimental design employed in this research was a quasi-experimental approach involving multiple groups (Rogers & Revesz, 2019). Participants, comprising students from diverse educational backgrounds, were divided into distinct groups to assess the impact of the Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR framework. The groups were structured to ensure comparability and representativeness across different demographics, including varying grade levels, socio-economic backgrounds, and mathematical proficiency levels.

The participant demographics encompassed students from different age groups, ranging from elementary to secondary education, with a diverse mix of academic abilities and cultural backgrounds (Benner & Crosnoe, 2011). This diverse representation aimed to capture a comprehensive view of the models' efficacy across a spectrum of learners, considering potential variations in response to these pedagogical methods.

Data collection methods encompassed a multifaceted approach to gather comprehensive insights (Balogun et al., 2003). Initially, pre- and post-assessments were conducted to measure students' baseline mathematical understanding before the implementation of the Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR approach. These assessments comprised both qualitative and quantitative components, including standardized tests and open-ended questions to gauge conceptual understanding and problem-solving abilities.

Observations played a pivotal role in capturing the dynamics within the classroom environment during the implementation of the Ts-Ts and TPS models (Kamat & Madhavan, 2016). Researchers observed student engagement, interaction patterns, and the effectiveness of these models in promoting collaborative learning and problem-solving among students.

Additionally, surveys and interviews were conducted to gather qualitative feedback from both students and educators (Weaver, 2006). Surveys sought to elicit perceptions regarding the effectiveness, engagement, and overall experiences with the Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR framework. Interviews with teachers provided valuable insights into instructional strategies, challenges faced, and recommendations for optimizing the implementation of these pedagogical methods.

Data analysis techniques involved a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative analysis of test scores and pre/post-assessment results with qualitative analysis of observational notes, surveys, and interview transcripts (Camilli Trujillo et al., 2022). Quantitative data underwent statistical analysis, employing measures such as mean comparisons, correlation analyses, and regression models to assess the impact of the Ts-Ts and TPS models on students' mathematical proficiency. Qualitative data underwent thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns, themes, and narratives emerging from student and teacher feedback.

## Results and discussion

### Result

The investigation into the effectiveness of the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models within the framework of Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) yielded multifaceted results, combining quantitative data, qualitative observations, and student performance improvements. The synthesis of these outcomes provides a comprehensive understanding of the impact of these pedagogical approaches on mathematics education.

Quantitative analysis revealed compelling insights into the efficacy of the Ts-Ts and TPS models in enhancing students' mathematical proficiency. Pre- and post-assessments demonstrated a notable improvement in students' performance after the implementation of these models within the PMR framework. Statistical analyses indicated a significant increase in average test scores across various mathematical concepts, showcasing a tangible enhancement in students' understanding and problem-solving abilities.

Moreover, the qualitative observations conducted during classroom sessions provided valuable insights into the dynamics and efficacy of these pedagogical models. Observations highlighted increased student engagement, active participation, and collaborative problem-solving during Ts-Ts and TPS activities. Students demonstrated heightened enthusiasm, exchanging ideas, explaining concepts to peers, and engaging in meaningful discussions related to real-life applications of mathematical concepts.

The integration of surveys and interviews with students and educators enriched the understanding of the outcomes. Surveys revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, citing increased interest in mathematics, improved understanding of concepts, and a preference for collaborative learning facilitated by the Ts-Ts and TPS models. Additionally, interviews with educators underscored the efficacy of these models in promoting critical thinking, communication skills, and deeper conceptual understanding among students.

Furthermore, the outcomes exhibited improvements in various aspects beyond mere academic performance. Students exhibited enhanced confidence in tackling mathematical problems, improved communication of mathematical ideas, and a greater appreciation for the relevance of mathematics in real-life contexts. Teachers reported a shift in classroom dynamics, with increased student participation and a more inclusive learning environment facilitated by these pedagogical approaches.

Overall, the outcomes of this investigation unveiled a multifaceted impact of the Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR framework on mathematics education. The amalgamation of quantitative data showcasing improved test scores with qualitative observations highlighting enhanced engagement and collaborative learning underscores the efficacy of these models in fostering a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Moreover, the positive student feedback and transformative classroom dynamics underscore the broader implications of these pedagogical approaches in nurturing well-rounded, engaged learners equipped with essential mathematical skills and competencies for real-world applications.

## Discussion

### Comparison of The Effectiveness of Ts-Ts and TPS Models in The PMR Approach

The comparison of the effectiveness between the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models within the framework of Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) reveals nuanced insights into their respective contributions to mathematics education. This evaluation highlights distinctive attributes, pedagogical implications, and varying impacts on student learning, offering a comprehensive understanding of their relative effectiveness.

The Ts-Ts model, characterized by its group-based problem-solving followed by rotating discussions, fosters a dynamic, collaborative learning environment. Its emphasis on peer interaction encourages students to articulate and exchange mathematical ideas, promoting a diversity of perspectives and collective problem-solving. The Ts-Ts model effectively aligns with PMR by engaging students in real-world mathematical scenarios, fostering connections between abstract concepts and practical applications. Its structured approach facilitates a comprehensive exploration of mathematical problems, encouraging active participation and communication among students.

In contrast, the TPS model follows a sequence of individual reflection, paired discussion, and subsequent sharing with the whole class. TPS promotes a more structured approach to collaborative learning, allowing for individual contemplation before engaging in discourse with peers. It offers a platform for students to refine their ideas through peer interaction before presenting them to the larger group. In the context of PMR, TPS encourages students to ponder real-life situations individually, collaborate to refine their understanding, and collectively construct knowledge that aligns with practical applications of mathematics.

The effectiveness of these models within the PMR approach manifests through distinct educational outcomes. Ts-Ts excels in fostering a lively, interactive classroom environment, promoting diverse viewpoints, and enabling students to explore mathematical concepts collaboratively. Its strength lies in the depth of discussion and the richness of perspectives exchanged among students. Conversely, TPS demonstrates efficacy in cultivating individual reflection, refining ideas through peer discussion, and encouraging active participation from all students in a structured manner.

Furthermore, the comparative effectiveness of Ts-Ts and TPS models within PMR necessitates consideration of diverse learner needs and preferences. Ts-Ts caters to extroverted learners who thrive in group settings and benefit from dynamic interactions, while TPS accommodates introverted learners who prefer individual contemplation before engaging in collaborative discussions. This highlights the importance of pedagogical diversity and flexibility in addressing varied learning styles within mathematics education.

### Strengths, Weaknesses, Differences, or Similarities Observed Between The Two Models In Facilitating Mathematics Learning Activities

The Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models, both integral to fostering collaborative learning experiences within the Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) framework, exhibit distinct strengths, weaknesses, differences, and similarities in facilitating mathematics learning activities. An analysis of these aspects provides valuable insights into their pedagogical contributions and implications in mathematics education.

#### a. Strengths:

- 1) **Ts-Ts Model:** Ts-Ts excels in fostering collaborative problem-solving and dynamic group interactions. Its strength lies in promoting vibrant discussions, enabling students to explore mathematical concepts collectively. The model encourages diverse perspectives, nurtures communication skills, and cultivates a sense of shared learning among students. Ts-Ts

facilitates a rich exchange of ideas, leading to deeper conceptual understanding through collaborative exploration.

- 2) TPS Model: TPS showcases strengths in structured individual reflection and inclusive participation. It encourages every student to engage in the learning process by initially reflecting on mathematical concepts independently before refining their understanding through peer discussions. TPS fosters active participation from all students and ensures a balanced contribution to the collaborative discourse.
- b. Weaknesses:
- 1) Ts-Ts Model: While Ts-Ts promotes lively discussions, it might face challenges in managing group dynamics, especially if some students dominate discussions while others remain passive. It might also prioritize social interaction over individual reflection, potentially hindering introverted students' contributions.
  - 2) TPS Model: The TPS model might encounter limitations in the depth of group discussions as it begins with individual reflections. In instances where students struggle to articulate their thoughts individually, it could impact the quality of subsequent discussions, limiting the diversity of ideas exchanged.
- c. Differences:
- 1) Ts-Ts Model: Emphasizes simultaneous group engagement, allowing for immediate exchange of ideas and collaborative problem-solving. It encourages a continuous flow of interaction among students, fostering a sense of shared exploration and rapid knowledge exchange.
  - 2) TPS Model: Prioritizes individual reflection before collaboration, ensuring that each student formulates initial thoughts independently. This sequential approach allows for focused contemplation and refinement of ideas before engaging in collaborative discourse.
- d. Similarities:
- 1) Collaborative Nature: Both models promote collaboration and peer interaction. They encourage students to share and discuss mathematical concepts, fostering a collaborative learning environment that nurtures communication skills and the articulation of ideas.
  - 2) Alignment with PMR: Both Ts-Ts and TPS align with the principles of Realistic Mathematics Education by encouraging engagement with real-world contexts and practical applications of mathematical concepts. They facilitate connections between abstract mathematical ideas and tangible, everyday scenarios.

### **Recommendations For Educators, Curriculum Developers, And Policy Makers Based On Research Results**

The outcomes derived from the research exploring the effectiveness of the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models within the Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) framework offer crucial insights for educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers in shaping the future of mathematics education. These insights pave the way for strategic recommendations aimed at optimizing pedagogical practices, curriculum design, and policy formulations within the realm of mathematics education.

- a. Recommendations for Educators:
- 1) Adopt Pedagogical Diversity: Incorporate a diverse range of instructional strategies, including Ts-Ts and TPS models, to cater to diverse learning preferences. Encourage active participation, collaborative problem-solving, and peer interaction to foster a vibrant learning environment.
  - 2) Facilitate Real-world Connections: Emphasize the integration of real-life scenarios and practical applications within mathematics instruction. Use PMR principles to contextualize mathematical concepts, making them more relevant and engaging for students.
  - 3) Promote Inclusivity: Employ strategies that encourage participation from all students, ensuring that each voice is valued. Utilize collaborative models to create a classroom culture where diverse perspectives are celebrated.
  - 4) Provide Training and Support: Offer professional development opportunities to educators to enhance their proficiency in implementing collaborative learning models effectively. Support teachers in integrating these models within their instructional practices.

- b. Recommendations for Curriculum Developers:
  - 1) Integrate Collaborative Models: Embed Ts-Ts and TPS models within curriculum frameworks to promote interactive and experiential learning. Design curricula that facilitate collaborative problem-solving and encourage students to explore mathematical concepts in diverse contexts.
  - 2) Create Resource Materials: Develop resources, lesson plans, and educational materials aligned with Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR framework. Provide educators with readily available tools to implement these strategies effectively.
  - 3) Foster Conceptual Understanding: Design curricular materials that prioritize conceptual understanding over rote memorization. Emphasize the application of mathematical knowledge in real-world scenarios to deepen students' understanding.
- c. Recommendations for Policymakers:
  - 1) Support Professional Development: Allocate resources for professional development programs that empower educators with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement collaborative learning models effectively.
  - 2) Advocate for Curricular Adaptation: Encourage the integration of collaborative learning models within national or state curricular frameworks. Promote policies that emphasize the importance of experiential and interactive mathematics education.
  - 3) Promote Research and Innovation: Invest in research initiatives that explore innovative pedagogical approaches and their impact on mathematics education. Encourage partnerships between academia and educational institutions to advance teaching methodologies.

### **The Implications of The Findings For Mathematics Education**

The findings stemming from the exploration of the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models within the Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) framework hold significant implications for the landscape of mathematics education. These implications span pedagogical practices, student engagement, instructional strategies, and the broader enhancement of mathematical learning experiences.

The findings advocate for a paradigm shift in pedagogical approaches within mathematics education. They underscore the value of interactive and collaborative learning models, such as Ts-Ts and TPS, in fostering a more engaging and participative classroom environment. Educators can harness the strengths of these models to facilitate active student involvement, promote peer interaction, and cultivate deeper conceptual understanding through shared exploration of mathematical concepts.

One of the critical implications of these findings is the heightened level of student engagement and inclusivity within mathematics classrooms. The collaborative nature of Ts-Ts and TPS models caters to diverse learning styles, preferences, and abilities. They create opportunities for every student to contribute, fostering an inclusive learning environment where diverse perspectives are valued, and all voices are heard. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment in students' learning journeys.

Furthermore, the findings underscore the importance of cultivating essential skills and competencies beyond rote mathematical knowledge. Collaborative learning models like Ts-Ts and TPS enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills. These are vital skills applicable not only within mathematical contexts but also in real-world scenarios where the ability to navigate complexities, collaborate, and communicate effectively is paramount.

Educators can leverage these findings to optimize instructional strategies and tailor teaching methodologies that align with the diverse needs of learners. Integrating Ts-Ts and TPS models within the PMR framework offers educators a versatile toolkit to create varied learning experiences. This flexibility allows for differentiated instruction, enabling teachers to cater to individual learning styles and preferences more effectively.

Moreover, the implications of these findings signify the ongoing evolution of mathematics education. They prompt educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers to embrace innovative pedagogies that prioritize active learning, collaboration, and the integration of real-world contexts within mathematical teaching. This evolution encourages a shift from traditional, teacher-centered approaches to student-centered, experiential learning methodologies.

## Conclusion

The effectiveness of the Two Stay Two Stray (Ts-Ts) and Think-Pair-Share (TPS) learning models within Realistic Mathematics Education (PMR) leads to a persuasive conclusion with major implications for mathematics education. This research's convergence shows that these pedagogical strategies can revolutionize mathematics instruction. Ts-Ts and TPS models excel at collaborative learning, student engagement, and mathematical application. Their integration within the PMR framework shifts educational methods toward experiential learning, diversity, and the development of abilities beyond math. Ts-Ts excels in lively debates, while TPS excels at structured individual contemplation and inclusive participation. Their relative effectiveness shows a symbiotic relationship, with one model increasing the other's deficiencies. These models give instructors a comprehensive toolkit to accommodate diverse learning styles, promote critical thinking, and increase conceptual knowledge. This research also illuminates pupils' holistic growth talents beyond academic performance. These collaborative models develop communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills needed to navigate modern life. This research supports student-centered, experiential learning in education. Teachers should embrace pedagogical variety, include real-life examples into math instruction, and promote inclusive learning environments that honor varied perspectives. Collaborative models should be integrated into curriculum frameworks to emphasize conceptual knowledge and practical applicability. Policymakers should promote professional development and innovative, inclusive mathematics education programs. This research outlines a radical path for mathematics education, with dynamic, engaging, and inclusive learning experiences. The PMR framework's integration of Ts-Ts and TPS models is a crucial step toward developing well-rounded students with important abilities for academic and real-world success. This research proves these pedagogical models work and signals a paradigm shift in mathematics education, promising a more lively, student-centric, and impactful learning journey for future generations.

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