Antecedents to Student Team Performance: The Impact of Outcome Expectations, Social Ties, and Knowledge Sharing

Research-in-Progress

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Abstract

The use of teams to develop information systems is widespread. Teaching software engineering (SE) students tools, techniques, methods and technologies to develop state-of-the-art systems focuses on only one aspect of becoming a successful professional in today's work environment. Developing communication and interpersonal skills and gaining experience interacting with other professionals is also critical for attaining professional expertise. One way universities build these latter skills is through a project or practicum course where students work in teams to develop a system for "real-life" clients. A study was performed to test whether constructs from the social cognitive and social capital theories can explain the quantity and quality of knowledge sharing occurring during these projects. The quality and quantity of knowledge sharing were then analyzed to determine their impact on team performance. The results should allow instructors to improve student learning by taking these constructs into account prior to project initiation.