

# **Workshops on Cooperative Learning**

**16-19 March 2004**

## **The Two Workshops**

In order to meet the professional training needs of a school as a whole, early this year STU organized two special workshops: a school-based effort (16-17 March) as well as one that was cluster-based (18-19 March). The first Workshop was attended by the staff of both North View Primary and Sembawang Primary, while the second Workshop was organised for the staff of primary schools in the N3 Cluster. Both Workshops were held at North View Primary School. Mr Rob Jutras of the Kagan Associates, based in California, led both Workshops

## **The Kagan Model of Cooperative Learning**

The Kagan model of Cooperative Learning, based on the concept and use of “structures” is an innovative approach to classroom instruction. The purpose of the March workshops was to infuse the use of these structures into the school curriculum as a whole, in a diversity of content areas/subjects. To Dr Kagan, these structures, such as “Numbered Heads Together”, “Quiz Quiz Trade” and “RallyCoach” create greater student motivation, higher student achievement and effective classroom management. **The Kagan Model of Cooperative Learning**

The objectives of each of the two-day Workshops are outlined below.

### **1. Learn Kagan Structures for Success**

- Use structures that promote success
- Put the best research to work for you
- Boost your students' achievement through proven fun, motivating activities
- Spice up your existing lessons with new, engaging structures
- Make learning more fun for you and your students

### **2. Manage Your Class for Success**

- Organize your class to ensure student success
- Create order, cooperation, and respect easily
- Solve discipline problems in your classroom
- Turn around your "problem students"
- Spend more time on learning and less on managing

### **3. Build Powerful Learning Teams**

- Build successful cooperative teams
- Take advantage of the power of teamwork
- Save time with easy team formation tips
- Create powerful learning teams in your class with teambuilding activities
- Keep teams together for the optimum time

### **4. Improve the Learning in Your Class**

- Breathe life into your curriculum
- Make learning fun and active in your class
- Boost your students' test scores

- Use classroom-proven structures to teach your curriculum more successfully
- Ensure success for all your students
- Promote higher-level thinking in any curriculum

**5. Release the Power of Proven Kagan Structures**

- Use Kagan Structures as part of any lesson to increase positive outcomes
- Enhance thinking skills in any content area with Timed Pair Share
- Equalize Participation with Talking Chips
- Energize your class while mastering content - discover Quiz Quiz Trade
- Improve mastery and test scores with Numbered Heads Together and RallyCoach

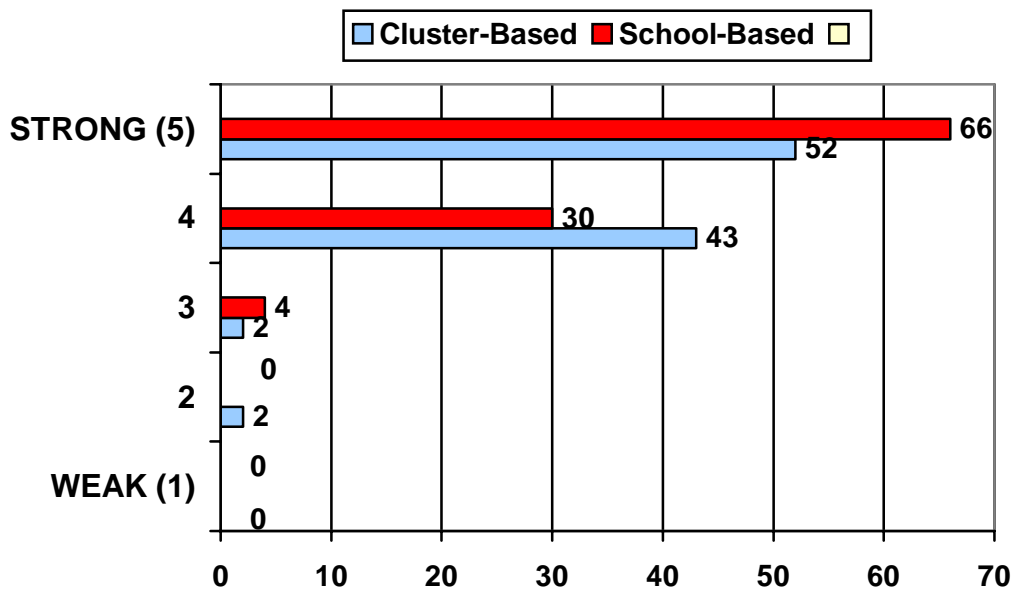
**6. Create a Cooperative, Caring Class**

- Turn your classroom into a place where everyone wants to be— including you
- Improve your students' liking for school, class, and each other with class-building activities
  - Make every day a rewarding experience
  - Create a positive classroom environment
  - Teach your students to care

**Feedback from the Participants**

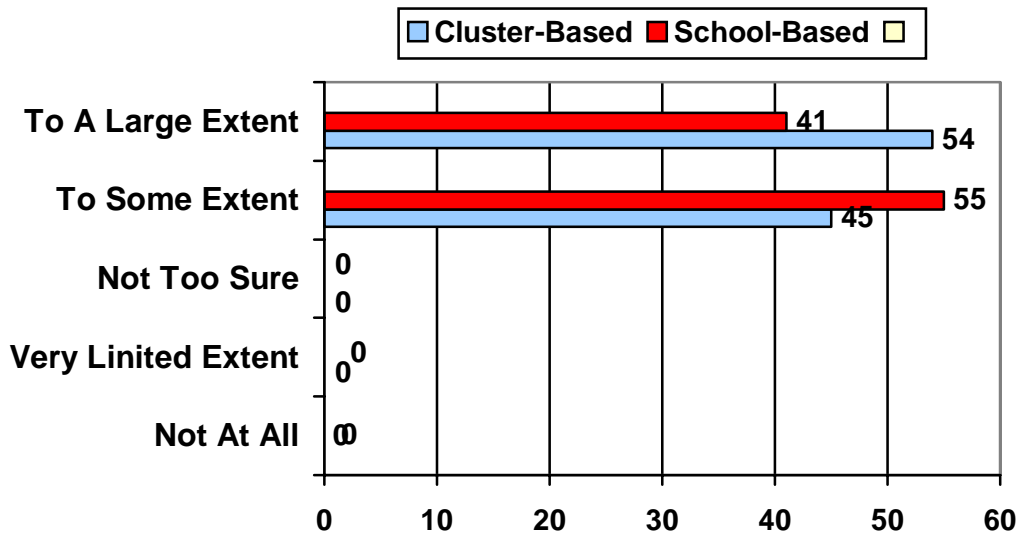
As shown in Chart 1, both Workshops were very well rated by the participants. Two-thirds of those who attended the school-based Workshop gave it the strongest rating of (5), while about half of the group at the Cluster-based Workshop gave it the highest rating.

**Chart 1: Overall Ratings (%)**



In Chart 2, on the question of applicability, participants were asked to what extent they would be able to incorporate any or all of the 14 “structures” discussed and illustrated in the Workshops. In both Workshops, about half of the participants thought that they would be able to use the “structures” to a very large extent.

**Chart 2: Applicability of Kagan Structures (%)**



Besides the closed-ended questions, participants were also asked to comment on the Content of the Workshops and on the Instructor. The key words of these comments from both Workshops are summarized in Box 1, with the frequency of the key words used noted in the numbers \within brackets.

**Box 1: Key Words Used in the Comments Made by Participants**

<b><i>On the Content</i></b>	
Useful (38), Practical (32), Interesting (28), Informative (24), Comprehensive (16), Enriching (9)	
<b><i>On the Instructor</i></b>	
Friendly & Warm (32), Clear (23), Enthusiastic (18), Well prepared/planned (18), Knowledgeable (15), Engaging (7)	