

Curriculum – An Overview

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I. Introduction:

Curriculum is a Latin word, 'Currere' means 'the race, the path, lap or course or runway' which one talks to reach a goal applied to a course of study. If the teacher is the guide, the curriculum is the path. Curriculum is the total structure of ideas and activities. This article briefly discusses on definition, aims, nature, bases, characteristics of a good curriculum, domains, types, curriculum development – according to spices model, principles of curriculum development, steps in curriculum development and, evaluation of the curriculum. [1]

Key Words: Curriculum, Hidden, Illegitimate, Legitimate, Null

Definition:

'A curriculum is an attempt to communicate the essential principles and features of an educational proposal in such a form that it is open to critical scrutiny and capable of effective translation into practice'- Stenhouse (1975)

'All the learning activities which are planned and guided by the school, whether they are carried out in groups or individually, inside and outside the school' - Kerr (1968)

'A systematic arrangement of the sum total of selected experiences planned by a school or a defined group of students to attain the aims of a particular a educational program me'- Nightingale international foundation.

Aims of Curriculum

- Character
- Knowledge and skills
- Health
- Clear thinking and observation
- National heritage
- Aesthetic expression
- Social relations and economic efficiency.

Bases of Curriculum

- Philosophical base
- Sociological base
- Psychological base
- Scientific base[2]

Characteristics of a Good Curriculum

1. The Curriculum is continuously evolving.
 - It evolved from one period to another, to the present.
 - For a curriculum to be effective, it must have continuous monitoring and evaluation.
 - Curriculum must adapt its educational activities and services to meet the needs of a modern and dynamic community.
2. The Curriculum is based on the needs of the people.
 - A good curriculum reflects the needs of the individual and the society as a whole.
 - The curriculum is in proper shape in order to meet the challenges of times and make education more responsive to the clientele it serves.
3. The Curriculum is democratically conceived.
 - A good curriculum is developed through the efforts of a group of individuals from different sectors in the society who are knowledgeable about the interests, needs and resources of the learner and the society as a whole.
 - The curriculum is the product of many minds and energies.
4. The Curriculum is the result of a long-term effort.

- A good curriculum is a product of long and tedious process.
 - It takes a long period of time in the planning, management, evaluation and development of a good curriculum.
5. The Curriculum is a complex of details.
 - A good curriculum provides the proper instructional equipment and meeting places that are often most conducive to learning.
 - It includes the student-teacher relationship, guidance and counseling program, health services, school and community projects, library and laboratories, and other school- related work experiences.
 6. The Curriculum provides for the logical sequence of subject matter.
 - Learning is developmental.
 - Classes and activities should be planned.
 - A good curriculum provides continuity of experiences.
 7. The Curriculum complements and cooperates with other programs of the community.
 - The curriculum is responsive to the needs of the community.
 - The school offers its assistance in the improvement and realization of ongoing programs of the community.
 - There is cooperative effort between the school and the community towards greater productivity.
 8. The Curriculum has educational quality.
 - Quality education comes through the situation of the individuals intellectual and creative capacities for social welfare and development.
 - The curriculum helps the learner to become the best that he can possibly be.
 - The curriculum support system is secured to augment existing sources for its efficient and effective implementation.
 9. The Curriculum has administrative flexibility.
 - A good curriculum must be ready to incorporate changes whenever necessary.
 - The curriculum is open to revision and development to meet the demands of globalization and the digital age..[3]

Domains of the curriculum:

- Intellectual domain
- Emotional domain
- Social domain
- Aesthetic development domain
- Spiritual domain
- Physical development domain. [2]

Types Of Curriculum

Olivia Bevis recommends four types of nursing curriculum namely,

- The legitimate curriculum
- The illegitimate curriculum
- Hidden curriculum
- The Null curriculum

Curriculum Development – According To Spices Model

- S - student-centred -----teacher-centred
- P - problem based----- information gathering
- I – integrated-----discipline –based
- C- community based -----hospital based
- E - elective-----standard programme
- S - systematic-----apprenticeship – based or opportunistic[1]

Principles Of Curriculum Development

- Conservative
- Forward- looking
- Creative
- Principle of totality form

- The activity principle
- Principle of preparation for life
- It connecting to community needs
- It connecting with social life
- Principles of all round development
- Principle of character building. [4]

Steps in Curriculum Development

According to Ralph Tyler, there are four main steps or tasks in curriculum development.

- Formulation of educational objectives
- Selection of learning experiences
- Effective and efficient organisation of learning experience
- Evaluation of the curriculum[5]

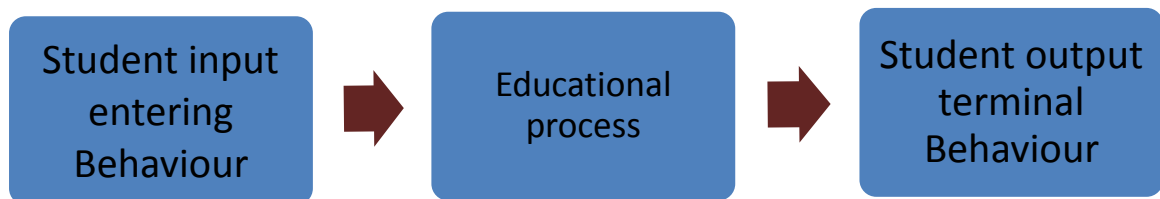
Evaluation of Curriculum

Evaluation is done when the entire curriculum as implemented. It is of two types namely formative, summative evaluation. The evaluation stage include, input evaluation, through put evaluation, output evaluation.

Methods and techniques of curriculum evaluation

- Discussion
- Experiments
- Interview – individual, group
- Opinions
- Observation
- Questionnaires
- Schedules
- Practical performance
- Anecdotal records

LEARNING AS A CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR



Summary: curriculum is a blueprint of an educational programme. Modern curriculum encompasses all the meaningful and desirable activities taking place in and around the environment. The overall aim of curriculum is change of behavior in an desirable manner.

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