

Education-PG-2nd Semester (EDUPG2202)

Curriculum Development & Planning

Unit 1

Curriculum-Meaning

In education, a **curriculum** (plural curricula) is the instructional and the educative programme by following which the pupils achieve their goals, ideals and aspirations of life. It is curriculum through which the general aims of a school education receive concrete expression.

Etymology

The term curriculum has been derived from a Latin word '**Currere**' which means a 'race course' or a runway on which one runs to reach a goal.

The traditional curriculum was subject-centered while the modern curriculum is child and life-centered.

A curriculum defined as content is an interesting emphasis and brings into question of another term, namely the **syllabus**. A syllabus is usually a summary statement about the content to be taught in course or unit. It is typically a list of content areas. A syllabus is clearly a subsection of curriculum and as such is subsumed within the broader concept. This emphasis on what content to be taught is a critical element of a syllabus but a curriculum includes more than this.

Curriculum-Definitions

Over the past decades many definitions of a curriculum have been provided but because key players in education represent a diversity of values and experience, it is difficult to get wide public or professional consensus.

Cunningham - "Curriculum is a tool in the hands of the artist (teacher) to mould his material (pupils) according to his ideas (aims and objectives) in his studio (school)".

Crow and Crow - "The curriculum includes all the learners' experience in or outside school that are included in a programme which has been devised to help him developmentally, emotionally, socially, spiritually and morally".

T. P. Nunn - "The curriculum should be viewed as various forms of activities that are grand expressions of human spirit and that are of the greatest and most permanent significance to the wide world".

Ralph Tyler (1949): - "All the learning of students which is planned by and directed by the school to attain its educational goals."

Functions of Curriculum

1. In General Education - It is that part of the curriculum that is designed to provide for a common universe of discourse, understanding, and competence for the purpose of developing thinking, socially responsible citizens of a free society. It provides a foundation for advancement into a major field of specialization.

2. In Specialized Education - It is that aspect of the curriculum designed for the major field or professional program of studies.

3. In Exploratory Education - This function provides knowledge beyond those general specialized education. This comes in the form of electives, cognates, minor, or allied subjects. At elementary level, exploratory function is met through a range of activities and projects extending from within the common core of studies. At high school or college, the exploratory experience may impel the students towards a scientific career or away from such career.

4. In Specialized-interest Education - This function of the curriculum in the secondary and college is typically met through free electives.

5. In Enrichment Education - This part of curriculum is intended to supplement and deepen one's educative experience beyond those connected with general education, specialized education, and exploratory education. At the elementary level, the enrichment function is typically provided not through course options, but through activities growing out of the common learning. In the secondary school, students who have completed the core courses in English language arts.

6. Producing Responsible Citizens - Responsible and useful citizens can be produced by a well-organized educational program. Curriculum plays a pivot role in providing knowledge about rights and responsibilities of the citizens and helping them in the development of desirable and useful skills to be applied in daily life.

7. To Develop Basic Skills - Basic skills like, reading, writing, speaking and understanding in certain language can be developed properly by applying suitable curriculum.

8. Preservation and Transmission of Cultural Heritage - The function of each society is to preserve its culture and to transmit it to its next generation. This function can be performed in a suitable way by the curriculum. The curriculum preserves the culture in literature and with the help of suitable teaching learning situation it is transmitted to the next generation.

Beside the above mentioned functions of curriculum can also help by:

9. Making the people broad minded.

10. Providing knowledge about the world.

11. Developing and building up some attitudes towards life.

12. Engaging the people in some useful tasks - producing subject specialists.

13. Producing scientists, educationists or specialized people for various field, improving social, cultural and economical conditions.

14. Improving physical and mental health of the people.

GENERAL	SPECIALIZED	EXPLORATORY	ENRICHMENT	SPECIALIZED-INTEREST
It provides a foundation for advancement into a major field of specialization	It is that aspect of the curriculum designed for the major field or professional program of studies.	This function provides knowledge beyond those general specialized education.	This part of curriculum is intended to supplement and deepen one's educative experience beyond those connected with general education, specialized education, and exploratory education	This function of the curriculum in the secondary and college is typically met through free electives.

SUMMARY