

CURRICULUM

Curriculum is considered as the heart of the educational enterprise. It is the totality of subject-matter, activities and experiences which a student acquires during his schooling. Thus, it is the sum total of all the activities organised in a school for the complete development of the pupils. It is well said that if teacher is a guide, curriculum is the path.

Etymological Meaning of Curriculum

The term 'curriculum' originates from a Latin word 'Currere' which means 'to run' or 'run-way' or 'race course'. In this sense, curriculum is the instructional and the educative programme by following which the pupils achieve their goals, ideals and aspirations of life. In other words, curriculum means all the activities which the students need to perform to complete a programme of study and activities that intended learning goals. Thus, curriculum is a course which a person runs to reach a goal.

Traditional/Old or Narrow Meaning of Curriculum

Traditional curriculum is also called as subject-centred curriculum. In this type of curriculum knowledge is divided into different subjects. The exact scope of each subject is clearly and strictly defined. In this curriculum subjects are given more importance.

Modern or Broader Meaning of Curriculum

Curriculum in its broadest sense includes complete school environment involving all the courses and activities. Thus, it is the sum total of all the activities organised in a school for the complete development of the pupils. It prepares the students for the real life situations. It is child-centred, activity-centred, balanced, progressive and dynamic in nature.

Definitions

1. **Cunningham:** "It is a tool in the hands of the artist (teacher) to mould his material (students) according to his ideals (aims and objectives) in his studio (school)."

2. **David G. Armstrong:** "Curriculum is a master plan for selecting content and organising learning experiences for the purpose of changing and developing learners' behaviours and insights."
3. **Ross:** "Curriculum includes cognitive, affective and conative activities. *Cognitive* activities include Language, Literature, Arithmetic, Science, Geography and History. *Affective* activities include Music, Art and Poetry. *Conative* activities include activities which satisfy the basic needs of food, clothes and shelter which include practical arts and capacities of work".
4. **Secondary Education Commission (1952-53):** Curriculum does not mean only the academic subjects traditionally taught in the school, but it includes the totality of experiences that a pupil receives through manifold activities that go on in the school- in the classroom, library, laboratory, workshop, and playground and in the numerous informal contacts between teachers and pupils."
5. **Dr. Zakir Hussain:** "Curriculum implies study of languages, science and technology, social sciences, art, craft, music and physical education. It involves complete environment of the school."
6. **Crow and Crow:** "Curriculum includes all the learners' experience in or outside school that are included in a programme which has been devised to help him to develop mentally, emotionally, socially, spiritually and morally."

Broadly speaking,

1. Curriculum is the blue print or plan of the school that includes experiences for the learners.
2. It is a means to achieve the ends of education.
3. It refers to the total programme of the school including curricular and co-curricular activities organised for individual students, or group of students inside or outside the classroom.
4. It serves as a guide for the teacher and a basis for administrative control.
5. It is the mirror of a country's educational programme at a particular stage.

Thus, the curriculum aims at developing a well-integrated personality of the child.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF CURRICULUM

Child of today is the builder of tomorrow. The inner potential of the child can be realised through a well-designed curriculum. Curriculum is basic to the physical, intellectual, social, moral, aesthetic, cultural, spiritual and vocational development of the child. Hence, curriculum should be designed in such a way that it trains the learner to face the situations of real life. Following are the various aims and objectives of curriculum:

1. **To train the learner for real life.** The aim of curriculum is to train the child for real life situations. It provides those experiences to the child which help him to solve the problems in his day-to-day life.
2. **To achieve the aims of education.** The aim of curriculum is to achieve the various aims of education in a desirable direction. Without suitable curriculum aims of education cannot be achieved.
3. **To ensure complete development of personality.** The aim of curriculum is to ensure the all-round development of the personality of the child. It is helpful in developing physical, mental, moral, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of the personality of the child. The emphasis should be laid on the complete development of the child while designing curriculum for a particular age or grade.

4. **To develop democratic values.** The aim of curriculum is to develop democratic values of equality, liberty, justice etc. among the students. It develops a democratic outlook in the students.
5. **To provide training in citizenship.** In almost all modern States, development of citizenship is considered to be one of the major responsibilities of education. The aim of curriculum is to provide training in citizenship to the students. It helps in developing small children into useful citizens of the society.
6. **To bridge the gulf between school and society.** A good curriculum takes the school nearer to the society and vice-versa. It serves the purpose of the society. Thus, the aim of curriculum is to provide those experiences to the child which will bridge the gulf between school and society.
7. **To develop knowledge.** The aim of curriculum is to develop the knowledge of the students through the organisation of various academic and non-academic activities. The emphasis is laid to create a harmony between the various branches of knowledge.
8. **To satisfy needs of the learner.** The aim of curriculum is to satisfy the general and specific needs of the learner. Thus, curriculum helps in the satisfaction of educational, vocational and psychological needs of the students.
9. **To create a suitable environment:** The aim of curriculum is to create suitable environment for the complete development of the learner. Maximum opportunities should be provided to the learner to develop his faculties, abilities and capabilities.
10. **To realise universal values:** The aim of curriculum is to develop a faith in the various universal values. Thus, curriculum helps in the realisation of the prevailing system of values.