

NABONGO TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE

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COURSE PROGRAMME: DIPLOMA PRIMARY TEACHER EDUCATION

SUBJECT COURSE UNIT: CURRICULUM STUDIES NOTES

1.0 Background of Curriculum Studies

1.1 Concepts and Terminologies

1.1.1 Curriculum

The word “curriculum” comes from the Latin word “currere”, which means: “to run or to run a course”. It has its origin in the running/chariot tracks of Greece. It was, literally, a course. In Latin curriculum was a racing chariot; curere was to run. Curriculum is a systematic and intended packaging of competencies (i.e. knowledge, skills and attitudes that are underpinned by values) that learners should acquire through organised learning experiences both in formal and non-formal settings. By curriculum Bishop (1985) is the sum total of all the experiences a pupil undergoes. A document or plan that exists in a school or school system that defines the work of teachers, at least to the extent of identifying the content to be taught to students and the method to be used in the process. (English, 2000).

1. Experiences children have under the guidance of teachers.
2. Curriculum encompasses all learning opportunities provided by school.
3. Curriculum is a plan for all experiences which the learner encounters in school.

The word Curriculum is taken from the Latin word which mean race or race-course.

Oxford Dictionary defined it as a course of study “Curriculum is a disciplining technology that directs how the individual is to act, feel, talk, and ‘see’ the world and the ‘self.’ As such, curriculum is a form of social regulation.”

(a) The Traditional concept;

“It is a body of subjects or subject matter prepared by the teachers for the students to learn”

(b) Static view point

Initially the curriculum was consider the course of study which gives importance only to text book teaching in educational institutions, the objective was to help students to memorize the content of the subject.

(c) Dynamic view point

After 19th century the old concept of the curriculum was replaced, it include now all the activities which are practiced inside or outside school for the well being of the students. It is the totality of learning; classroom Experiences, lab work, play ground and interaction with the community

A curriculum refers to a defined and prescribed course of studies, which students must fulfill in order to pass a certain level of education.

Some influential definitions combining various elements to describe curriculum are as follows

- John Kerr:- According to John Kerr, a curriculum is planned and guided by the school, whether it is carried on in groups, individually inside or outside the school.
- The curriculum is a total learning experience provided by the school. It includes the content of courses (the syllabus), the method employed (strategies) and other aspects like norms and values, which relate to the way schools are organized.
- Thus a curriculum is neither development nor a sequence of experiences. It is a plan for facilitating learning for students.

- This plan starts with where the child is. It enumerates all the aspects and dimensions of learning that are considered necessary. It gives a reason why such learning is considered necessary and what educational aims it would serve.

In a nutshell,

- the curriculum is a means followed by the teachers and students for achieving the set goals and the aims or objectives of education being provided in the school.
- Curriculum, in every sense, is supposed to be used for all experiences. These may be curricular or co-curricular, imparted by the school for the realization of the stipulated aims and objectives of the school education.

1.1.2 Modern Curriculum

The modern curriculum consists of all experiences for learning which are planned and organized by the school. It is composed of the actual experiences and activities of learners inside or outside the classroom under the guidance of the teacher and for which the school accepts responsibility.

Some authors define curriculum as “The total effort of the school to bring about desired out-comes in school and out-of-school situations”

Concepts of Curriculum

The concept of Curriculum is dynamic as the changes that occur in society. In its narrow sense, curriculum is viewed merely as a listing of subject to be taught in school. In a broader sense, it refers to the total learning experiences of individuals not only in schools but in society as well. (Purita P. Bilbo, Ed.D)

A general overall plan of the content or specific materials of instruction that the college should offer the student by way of qualifying him for graduation or certification or for entrance into a professional or vocational field.

A body of prescribed educative experiences under the supervision of an educational institute, designed to provide an individual with the best possible training and experience to fit him for the society of which he is a part or to qualify him for a trade or profession.

(a) Common Concepts of Curriculum

Syllabus Content Outline

Standards Textbooks

Course of study

Planned Experiences

(b) Scope and importance of Curriculum

1. the coverage of the area or subject matter that something deals with or to which it is relevant.
2. The range of one's perceptions, thoughts, or actions “He hasn't the scope to understand this concept.”?
3. The area covered by a given activity or subject

So here the word scope means the range of curriculum and how much area it covers.

Here is the various aspect of the curriculum process;

1. Substantive (real or actual)
2. Technical
3. Social

The important aspect of the substantive is related to goals, aims and objectives and the technical aspect refers to the skill development , methods and subject matter.

The social side is the need and involvement of the society in the process.

(C) Functions of Curriculum

The main objective of the curriculum is the development of the child physical, intellectual, emotional and personality development.

1. Development of individual