

PhD Study Material

on

PQE 012: Curriculum Studies

For category "**A**": teachers with *Doctorate in Education* or **Ph.D.** in any other field but in combination with either NCE, PDDE or PGDE.

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Concept of Curriculum Studies

Developing and implementing a curriculum play crucial roles in education. These processes involve designing, organising, evaluating, and continually improving educational programmes to meet societal and individual needs.

Models of Curriculum Development and Design

Curriculum models provide frameworks for systematically developing and organising educational content.

Below are some prominent models:

Tyler's Objective Model

Ralph Tyler developed this influential model of curriculum design.

It revolves around four key questions:

- 1. What educational **purposes** should the school aim to achieve?
- 2. What educational **experiences** can help achieve these purposes?
- 3. How should these experiences be effectively **organised**?
- 4. How can the effectiveness of these experiences be **evaluated**?

This model focuses on setting clear objectives, designing appropriate learning experiences, organising them logically, and evaluating their effectiveness, following a linear approach.

The Wheeler Model

The Wheeler model takes a cyclical approach to curriculum development. It views curriculum development as an on-going process, involving these steps:

- Setting aims, goals, and objectives
- Selecting learning experiences
- Organising learning experiences
- Conducting evaluation
- Modifying the curriculum based on evaluation results

Taba's Grassroots Model

Hilda Taba introduced a bottom-up approach to curriculum design, advocating for teacher involvement in the process.

The model includes these steps:

- Diagnosing needs
- Formulating objectives
- Selecting content
- Organising content
- Selecting learning experiences
- Organising learning experiences
- Conducting evaluation
- Making modifications

This model prioritises educator involvement and customises the curriculum to meet students' needs.

The Spiral Curriculum (Bruner)

Jerome Bruner's model encourages revisiting core ideas and topics throughout a student's education. As students' progress, the same topics become more complex, deepening their understanding and reinforcing prior knowledge. This approach is ideal for subjects requiring cumulative learning.

The Integrated Model

The integrated model connects different subject areas to offer students a comprehensive understanding. It promotes crossdisciplinary learning, blending subjects into a cohesive curriculum that reflects real-life applications of knowledge.

Organisation of Curriculum

Organise the curriculum by structuring the content to ensure effective delivery of knowledge and skills. Determine the structure by sequencing topics and arranging them across grade levels.

Some organisational structures include:

- **Linear Organisation**: You arrange content sequentially, progressing from simple to complex.
- **Spiral Organisation**: You revisit and expand on key concepts at different grade levels, increasing in complexity.
- **Modular Organisation**: You divide the curriculum into independent units or modules that can be taught in any order.

• **Integrated Organisation**: You combine different subjects to promote interdisciplinary learning.

Selection of Curriculum Content

Selecting curriculum content involves determining the knowledge, skills, and values to include.

Criteria for selection often include:

- **Relevance**: Ensure the content is meaningful to students and applicable to their future needs.
- **Significance**: Choose topics that reflect important knowledge contributing to the learner's understanding of the world.
- **Interest**: Select content that engages students and caters to their curiosity and motivation.
- Learnability: Ensure the content is suitable for students' developmental levels and learning capacity.
- **Utility**: The content should equip students with practical skills and knowledge for their personal and professional lives.

Evaluation of Curriculum

Curriculum evaluation involves determining how well a curriculum achieves its objectives.

It requires systematically collecting and analysing data on:

• Learner outcomes: Assess students' achievement of learning objectives.

- **Teacher feedback**: Gather educators' insights on the practicality and efficacy of the curriculum.
- **Stakeholder input**: Include contributions from parents, employers, and the community regarding the curriculum's real-world relevance.

Use formative evaluation (*on-going*) or summative evaluation (*at the end of a cycle*) to guide curriculum revision and improvement.

Principles of Supervision, Visitation, and Accreditation

Successful curriculum implementation requires on-going supervision, visitation, and accreditation to ensure quality and adherence to educational standards.

Supervision

Supervision involves monitoring the teaching and learning process to ensure proper curriculum implementation.

Effective supervision should:

- Support teachers in improving their instructional practices through constructive feedback.
- Collaborate with teachers to identify areas for improvement.
- Promote continuous improvement through the professional development of educators and an enhanced learning environment.

Visitation

Visitation involves formal and informal visits by supervisors or external evaluators to observe curriculum implementation.

Effective visitation includes:

- **Objective observation**: Collect unbiased information on how well the curriculum is delivered.
- **Feedback and guidance**: Provide teachers with specific, actionable feedback after classroom observations.
- Regular visits to maintain consistent quality standards.

Accreditation

Accreditation evaluates educational institutions or programmes to determine if they meet established standards.

It serves as a quality assurance mechanism based on:

- **Transparency**: Ensure accreditation criteria are clear and well-communicated.
- **Standards-based evaluation**: Make decisions based on objective, measurable standards.
- **On-going evaluation**: Require institutions to undergo regular re-accreditation to maintain quality.

Preparation of Relevant Reports

Report preparation is an essential part of curriculum supervision, visitation, and accreditation. These reports formally record observations, evaluations, and recommendations for improvement.

Components of a Curriculum Supervision/Visitation Report

- **Introduction**: State the purpose of the supervision or visitation.
- Observation summary: Provide a detailed account of observations, including teaching methods and student engagement.
- **Evaluation**: Assess how well the curriculum is being implemented, supported by specific examples.
- **Recommendations**: Suggest improvements for curriculum delivery and solutions to identified challenges.
- **Conclusion**: Summarise overall findings and highlight key areas for immediate attention.

Accreditation Report

- **Executive Summary**: Give a brief overview of the accreditation process and outcomes.
- Accreditation Criteria: List the standards used to evaluate the institution or programme.
- **Findings**: Discuss how well the institution met each criterion, highlighting strengths and weaknesses.
- **Recommendations**: Provide actionable steps to address deficiencies and enhance quality.

 Accreditation Decision: State whether the institution or programme has been accredited, conditionally accredited, or denied accreditation, along with reasons for the decision.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC: CURRICULUM STUDIES (012)

 What type of evaluation assesses a curriculum at the end of a cycle?

- A. Formative evaluation
- B. Summative evaluation
- C. Continuous evaluation
- D. Diagnostic evaluation

2. In which model are learning experiences modified based on evaluation results?

- A. Tyler's Objective Model
- B. Spiral Curriculum
- C. Wheeler Model
- D. Integrated Model

3. Which criterion ensures curriculum content is applicable to students' future needs?

- A. Learnability
- B. Relevance
- C. Significance
- D. Interest

4. What is a critical aspect of developing a curriculum for higher education?

A. Standardised testing

B. Flexible and innovative course design

C. Emphasis on rote memorisationD. Strict adherence to traditional subjects

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- 13. Measurement & Evaluation
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- 16. Adult Education
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