

REVISITING THE CONCEPT AND APPLICATION OF CURRICULUM

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The curriculum is the foundation of learning and helps students and teachers to create meaningful and purposeful development in learning. In learning, the curriculum must be delivered well; teachers must utilize appropriate methods that match the level of the student's understanding. After all, how can a student understand a particular topic without a more knowledgeable one?

McGuire and Alismail (2015) stated that education needs to make an instructional shift in order to ensure our students succeed as the innovators of the future. In this light, a curriculum mirrors the values and goals of a school or university, and what it expects the students to achieve. A curriculum serves as a map of the essentials of a particular study and helps plan the education process for a given period. Since the curriculum consists of a series of activities for the students to complete, proper execution and guidance from a teacher are needed. A functional and relevant curriculum also serves the purpose of achieving educational goals in our society.

For instance, imagine if a teacher enters a classroom without any knowledge of what he/she's going to teach, not knowing what to teach or how to teach, what do you think will happen to the students? They will not learn anything as well. This situation reflects a lack of planning for the curriculum and the teacher's involvement in creating the curriculum as well.

Based on research, many countries find it difficult to adequately adjust, let alone reform their curricula to keep up with the rapid pace of change. Some might have produced materials that are ineffective and were not able to connect with the critical elements of the

education system to curriculum change and reform processes. If there are curriculum gaps, we must be able to ask the right questions and eventually solve the concerning issues. Say, for example, we as educators should be able to realize what questions can guide the work leading to curriculum development.

The need to continuously revise the curriculum accordingly must be recognized. Educators have to be responsive to the ever-changing and shifting development needs of our society. This could also refer to systematic changes in curriculum content compliant with national or even global developmental challenges.

References:

Alisail, H.A. & McGuire, P. (2015). 21st Century Standards and Curriculum: Current Research and Practice. Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1083656.pdf>

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