TEACHER'S ROLE IN CURRICULUM TRANSACTION & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract-

Teacher Education provides a platform to student-teachers to acquire the required knowledge, skill and develop positive attitude, values and beliefs. This can be done with the help of the provided curriculum. After reviewing various researches on the curriculum and significant role of teachers' in framing the curriculum the process of curriculum development was decentralized. The process of curriculum framing and preparation of textbooks be decentralized so as to increase teachers' involvement in these tasks.

Introduction-

Teachers know the needs of all types of students. Teachers can understand the psychology of the learner. Teachers are aware about the teaching methods and teaching strategies. Teachers also play the role as evaluator for the assessment of learning outcomes. So teachers must possess some qualities such as planner, designer, manager, evaluator, researcher, decision maker and administrator. Teachers play the respective role for the each step of curriculum development process. Curriculum planning involves analysis of philosophy, social forces, needs, goals and Objectives, treatment of knowledge, human development, learning process & instruction, and decision.

Teacher role if Curriculum Transaction-

1. Interpretation of curricular aims

- While interpreting curricular aims teacher plays the role of mediator as follows……

- Teacher helps the students to know what they need to achieve to succeed in life
- Staff and students have high expectations and strive for excellence
- Learning and teaching takes place in a safe and purposeful environment
- Students are encouraged to have enquiring minds and seek opportunities to become global citizens
- Staff challenge and support students' paths to success

2.Formulation of instructional objectives

- An instructional objective is a description of the result expected from a learning experience. It describes the performance or the behavior expected of the learner at the end of the learning activity. The term instructional objective is used interchangeably with performance, behavioral or learning objective.
- To help the students learn, teachers should clearly spell out the goals or targets, they set out for their class.
- Every teacher should have an idea of what knowledge, abilities, and attitudes they would like the students to develop for that particular educational encounter.
- These goals are expressed in terms of instructional objectives, which will provide focus to the instructional efforts of both the teachers and the students.
- Teacher uses proper methods & techniques for desirable learning outcomes.
- They provide standards for measuring acceptable student behavior.
- They serve as criteria for evaluating the quality and efficiency of instruction.
- They serve as a contract between the learner and the instructor.
- They allow self-evaluation on the part of the learner.

3.Contextualizing the Curriculum

An effective teacher does not blindly transact the curriculum. She/he realizes that the curriculum needs to be contextualized.

The teacher analyses the current situation of the local region, the nation & the world and accordingly synchronizes the curriculum to suit the needs & aspirations of the learner.

e.g. 1.While teaching Science, if the teacher finds that many students in the class are prone to eating junk food, the teacher purposefully includes a discussion on the ill effects of junk food while teaching a topic related to 'Food habits'

2. During a political science class, the teacher must connect the content of the curriculum to the current scenario.

4.Designing varied learning experiences

- Problem-based learning
- Student-centered instruction

(Adult learning/Adult education)

- Competency-based (outcomes-based) instruction.
- Substitute active learning projects and experiences for lectures
- Use constructivism in teaching.
- Assign open-ended questions and problems
- Use simulations, role-playing
- Use self-paced or cooperative (team) learning.

5.Curricular adaptation for catering special needs of diverse learners

- The principals and panel chairpersons were supportive to the collaborating teachers and space was created for them to differentiate the school-based curriculum.
- The collaborative planning periods facilitated the teachers to plan each unit in detail for Special needs learners.

6.Varying the content to be covered

- Teachers to exercise their professional judgment in varying the learning content, process and product according to students' needs and abilities, which brought about more effective teaching and learning.
- When planning the units, teachers varied what students needed to learn to match their readiness and abilities.
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- They devoted time and effort to planning and implementing a differentiated curriculum, and monitoring and evaluating the progress of students.
- The success of the collaboration is also attributed to teachers' open-mindedness to new teaching strategies, consistent use of the strategies in class and continuous reflections on what could be done to better cater for students' diverse learning needs.

Teacher as a curriculum developer

- A teacher has to plan thoroughly to achieve his/her goals. For this, teaching strategies are congruent with purpose, plans reflect the diversity of the classroom; lessons have effective assessments constructed within the design.
- The teacher shows an ability to speak and write about the significance of acquired knowledge and cumulative experience ,

- understands theoretical and practical aspects of curriculum development & implementation,
- demonstrates a thorough understanding of one or more teaching models , makes conscious ,creative decisions about the components of lesson design,
- develops on a continuing basis of repertoire of effective and positive classroom management techniques,
- presents materials in variety of ways to accommodate different dominant learning styles,
- Exhibits high standards of professional ethics regarding colleagues**.**

Teacher Role in curriculum evaluation -
- The teacher is qualified to judge if a curriculum provides appropriate instruction at three levels of differentiation: remedial, instructional and advanced.
- A curriculum should include techniques and strategies for teachers to help students at their current academic level.
- The teacher should be able to provide an informed opinion about the usefulness of such activities by mid-academic year.
- Teachers should be consulted about curriculum evaluation because they are ultimately responsible for translating its objectives into specific lessons.
- Teachers are ethically and legally bound to routinely assess students and report their progress.
- A curriculum should help teachers do this by providing a realistic set of goals and suggested techniques to assist students at all ability levels.
- When decisions are made about changes in content, teachers can provide feedback based on their direct interaction with students.
- Teachers routinely use assessment data to design and adapt instruction. They can also use this data to evaluate the effectiveness of a curriculum.
- A teacher's role in curriculum evaluation affects the school's choice of textbooks, as well as the adoption of special programs to augment educational standards.
- Classroom instructors examine the curriculum's objectives to determine the relevance of the materials.
- Over time, teachers gain insight to the effectiveness of a curriculum on their students' long-term academic development.

Conclusion-

Educators are beginning to recognize and accept the fact that public education has to be restructured to provide a curriculum that is universally inclusive, gender-free, flexible, competency-based and outcome-focused. The increasing welfare rolls, a rapidly expanding prison system, increasing unemployment, high illiteracy rate, increasing student dropout rate, are challenges that education must face. It is evident that the educational system must work more strenuously to keep pace with technology to enable us to prepare our young people to live a balanced life.

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