

Understanding the Principles of Curriculum and Instructional Strategies

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Abstract

In educational institutions of all levels, the educators need to acquire an efficient understanding of the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. In promoting student learning and enabling them to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans, it is apparently understood that up-gradations need to take place in curriculum and instructional strategies. The curriculum and instructional strategies will be implemented in a well-organized manner, when the educators are informative in terms of the principles. The principles include the norms, values, moralities and philosophies, which would be favourable to the teachers, students, as well as the overall system of education. The curriculum and instructional strategies are the key to impart information among students in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans. Furthermore, they are able to achieve academic goals. Hence, these can be facilitated, when the teachers and students are informative in terms of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, positivity needs to be reinforced in these principles. Therefore, it can be stated, knowledge in terms of these principles need to be up-graded throughout the implementation of job duties. The main concepts that are taken into account are, understanding the significance of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies, principles of curriculum and instructional strategies and factors required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Keywords: Academic Activities, Curriculum and Instructional Strategies, Education, Goals, Principles, Students, Teachers

The principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are the values that need to be put into operation by the instructors to promote student learning, achieve academic goals and lead to up-gradation of the overall system of education (Parvathy, 2017). In other words, they are required to abide by certain norms, values, tasks and activities in order to do well in their jobs. The instructors are vested with the authority and responsibility of preparing students to carry out their job duties successfully. Hence, they need to impart information among them in

terms of the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. There are various factors on the basis of which these principles are based, i.e. grade levels of the students, academic subjects, academic goals, learning abilities of the students, resources and materials available and the overall system of education. When the decision making processes are put into operation or the instructors are to make selection of the alternatives, these principles need to be taken into consideration. Therefore, it can be stated, principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are indispensable in leading to functioning of the overall system of education.

The instructors need to bring about changes in the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. When changes are implemented, it needs to be ensured, they are favourable and beneficial to the students (What are Curriculum Principles, 2021). They are able to carry out their job duties well and acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans. When instructors are recruited in educational institutions and training centres, they have the primary aim of doing well in their jobs. Hence, they need to be well-equipped in terms of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. The instructors need to be well-versed in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans that they are imparting to the students. Furthermore, they are to acquire an efficient understanding in terms of problems of the students and provide solutions to them. The students should be provided with the rights and opportunities to express their ideas and viewpoints. When they are not comfortable with any factor within the classroom settings, they should be allowed to redress their grievances. Therefore, educational needs and requirements of the students need to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

The students get enrolled in educational institutions to learn and understand. They have the primary objective of acquiring an efficient understanding of academic subjects and lesson plans. After they have understood these in a well-organized manner, they do well in assignments, tests and exams. The instructors are required to convey the viewpoint to the students that they are not only learning to score good grades in tests and exams, but they are required to make use of their educational qualifications, skills and abilities in their lives. They need to inculcate the traits of morality, ethics, diligence and conscientiousness. The students are trained to enhance their career prospects and promote well-being of their families and communities. Within the course of academic learning, students are overwhelmed by various types of problems and challenges. Measures need to be implemented to provide solutions to them. Furthermore, they need to be prevented from assuming a major form. Therefore, one is

able to understand on a comprehensive basis that leading to progression of students is regarded as one of the significant factors that needs to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Understanding the Significance of Principles of Curriculum and Instructional Strategies

The principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are the values and norms that need to be acknowledged by the instructors and students to promote teaching and learning, achieve academic goals and lead to up-gradation of the overall system of education. In other words, they are required to abide by certain standards, values, tasks and activities in order to do well in their jobs. The instructors are vested with the authority and responsibility of preparing students to carry out their job duties productively. Hence, they need to impart information among them in terms of the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. There are various factors on the basis of which these principles are based, i.e. grade levels of the students, academic subjects, academic goals, learning abilities of the students, resources and materials available, classroom environmental conditions and the overall system of education. When the decision making processes are put into operation or the instructors are to make selection of the alternatives, these principles need to be taken into consideration. Therefore, principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are significant in leading to functioning of the overall system of education.

In educational institutions of all levels, when the members are wholeheartedly determined in promoting student learning, achieving educational goals and leading to up-gradation of the overall system of education, they need to pay attention towards principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. These principles are primarily acknowledged by the instructors and students in the implementation of teaching-learning methods, teaching-learning materials and instructional strategies. When these are put into operation, the moralities and values need to be taken into account. When the instructors are imparting information among students in terms of a particular lesson plan, they need to implement the principles in teaching-learning methods, teaching-learning materials and instructional strategies. Furthermore, they need to ensure, they promote student learning in an efficacious manner. As a consequence, up-gradations will take place in the overall system of education. Therefore, it is understood in educational institutions of all levels that principles of

curriculum and instructional strategies are regarded as significant, when they prove to be useful in promoting student learning.

The research studies have indicated that in the case of complicated lesson plans and difficult assignments and projects, the students usually feel overwhelmed. They feel work pressure and develop stress and anxiety. Students in some cases do not develop motivation towards the implementation of job duties. In such cases, the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies need to be reinforced. The information that is imparted by these principles need to be put into operation in an accurate manner. All the members of the educational institutions, irrespective of their job positions in the hierarchy need to be well-versed in terms of these principles. When there are occurrence of any kinds of problems and difficulties, these need to be solved in an efficient manner. The students will overcome their problems when they take help and support from instructors and classmates. Hence, through these principles, they are able to overcome apprehensiveness and vulnerability. Therefore, it is understood in educational institutions of all levels that principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are regarded as significant, when they develop motivation among students towards studies.

Principles of Curriculum and Instructional Strategies

In educational institutions of all levels, the students are different from each other in terms of number of factors, i.e. age groups, gender, learning abilities, cultures, personality traits, and socio-economic backgrounds. But they have the common goal of acquiring an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and achieving educational goals. The teachers are putting emphasis on up-gradation of these principles, not only to impart information among students in terms of academic subjects, but also to enable them to emerge into moral human beings and productive citizens of the country.

All the members of the educational institutions, irrespective of their job positions in the hierarchy need to be well-versed in terms of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies (Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, n.d.). When they are well-versed in terms of these principles, they will be able to carry out their job duties in a well-organized manner and promote enrichment of the overall system of education. In the development of the curriculum and instructional strategies and in bringing about transformations in them, these principles need to be reinforced. The primary goal of these principles is to guide and lead the

students in the right direction. The individuals will be successful when they understand and follow these principles. These are stated as follows:

Suitability to the Age and Mental Ability of the Students

The students are different from each other on the basis of number of factors, i.e. caste, creed, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age groups, personality traits, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. When transformations are implemented, it needs to be ensured, they are encouraging and advantageous to the students in doing well in their jobs and in achieving desired goals. Students are able to do well and acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans. The teaching-learning methods, teaching-learning materials and instructional strategies need to be compatible to the age and mental ability of the students. Hence, they need to be well-equipped in terms of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. The instructors need to be well-versed in terms of academic subjects and ensure they are suitable to the age and mental ability of the students. Therefore, suitability to the age and mental ability of the students is a vital principle of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Principles are required to be in accordance to the Needs and Abilities of the Students

Within the course of implementation of teaching-learning methods, teaching-learning materials and instructional strategies, the instructors need to take into account the principles. These need to be in accordance to the needs and abilities of the students. As a consequence, students are able to do well in their job duties and acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans. Information in terms of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies will prove to be beneficial and favourable to the students on a comprehensive basis. The instructors as well as the students need to be informative in terms of these principles. The instructors need to carry out their job duties in such a manner that the students should develop motivation towards studies. Furthermore, they should be able to overcome any types of problems and challenges. Therefore, in educational institutions of all levels, the principles are required to be in accordance to the needs and abilities of the students.

The Curriculum should be Environmentally Centred

The curriculum and instructional strategies should impart information among students in terms of preservation of the environment. This is an important concept to sustain one's living conditions in an effective manner. In both rural and urban communities, the individuals need to pay attention towards preservation of the environment. The environment should be kept clean. Hence, in educational institutions of all levels, the instructors impart information among students in terms of keeping the environment clean. They need to be informative in terms of ways of curbing various forms of pollution, i.e. air, water, noise and land. Furthermore, they are imparted information in terms of meaning and significance of planting trees and spreading greenery. The students are encouraged to participate in tasks and activities that would enable them to do well in their jobs and generate the desired outcomes. Hence, the principles that impart information in terms of preservation of the environment is acknowledged by the individuals to a major extent. Therefore, the curriculum should be environmentally centred is a crucial principle of curriculum and instructional strategies.

The Principle of Comprehensive Curriculum

In educational institutions of all levels, the curriculum should be formulated in such a manner that it should impart information among students in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans. The concepts should be organized in such manner that the students should achieve their goals and objectives in personal and professional spheres, lead to enrichment of their personality traits and sustain their living conditions in an effective manner. Furthermore, instructors need to ensure, they promote student learning in an efficacious manner. In the academic subjects, the lesson plans should be organised in such a manner that should cover all the information that is necessary for students to understand. When the educators are determined to reinforce the principle of comprehensive curriculum, up-gradations will take place in the overall system of education. Therefore, it is understood on a comprehensive basis that the principle of comprehensive curriculum will render an important contribution in promoting student learning.

The Principle of Co-relation

The curriculum should be designed in such a manner that all subjects are correlated with each other. This principle is primarily applicable in the field of early childhood education. When the curriculum is formulated for early childhood education, it needs to be ensured that the subject matter of various subjects have some correlation with each other. In this manner, the students are able to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic

subjects and lesson plans. The students are imparted information in terms of academic subjects of mathematics, English, Hindi, social science, science, arts and crafts and so forth. The research studies have indicated, when students are imparted information in terms of mathematical concepts, they are shown pictures of flowers, plants, fruits, vegetables and so forth. In this manner, a correlation is established between subjects and concepts. The students in this manner will understand pictures and numbers. Therefore, the principle of co-relation is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategy, which has proven to be favourable in the field of early childhood education.

The Principle of Hands-on Work

The students should not be imparted information in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans theoretically, but they need to put emphasis on hands-on work as well. When the students are studying science subjects, the practical work will provide hands-on work experience to the students. When the students are learning science subjects of physics, chemistry and biology, they recognise the principle of hands-on work. On the other hand, in the case of production of artworks and handicrafts as well, the principle of hands-on work is regarded as favourable. In this case, the instructors carry out the job duties and train students. Later, students are required to put into operation the job duties on their own. Therefore, it can be stated, the principle of hands-on work is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategy, which has proven to be advantageous in facilitating learning and understanding of academic subjects.

The Principle of Flexibility

The principle of flexibility is regarded as meaningful to bring about changes. The instructors need to bring about changes in the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. In addition, changes are to be brought about in various aspects in the system of education. When changes are put into operation, it needs to be ensured, they are favourable and beneficial to the students. Instructors and students are able to carry out their job duties in a well-ordered manner and acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans. When the instructors pay attention to bring about productive and useful changes, they prove to be advantageous to the students in achieving desired goals. Furthermore, the students will feel comfortable within the learning environment. Therefore, the principle of flexibility is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategy, which has

been regarded as advantageous, particularly when the instructors are to bring about transformations in curriculum and instructional methods.

The Principle of Forward-Looking

The principle of forward-looking is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategies, which takes into account inclusion for the topics, content and learning experiences that may prove to be beneficial to the students in enhancing their career prospects. The students will acquire an understanding of the lesson plans in a well-ordered manner. The curriculum and instructional methods need to promote student learning and lead to up-gradation of the overall system of education. Furthermore, the instructors need to make use of modern, scientific and innovative methods in the implementation of teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies. They need to ensure, they make provision of adequate training in terms of these methods to the students. The students need to seek help and support from their instructors to do well in their job duties and generate the desired outcomes. Therefore, the principle of forward-looking is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategies, which has facilitated in leading to up-gradation of the overall system of education.

The Principle of Consultation with Instructors

The principle of consultation with instructors is to be put into operation in educational institutions of all levels. The students need to seek help and support from their instructors to do well in their job duties and generate the desired outcomes. This principle is acknowledged in the learning of academic subjects; participating in competitions, seminars and workshops; working on assignments and projects and putting into operation other academic activities. In order to do well in one's jobs and generate the desired outcomes, the students need to be informative in terms of methods and approaches. The instructors need to generate information among students in terms of these methods and approaches in a manageable manner. In order to achieve educational goals, they need to seek guidance from the instructors. When principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are to be formulated, one is required to generate ideas and viewpoints. The members need to develop mutual understanding and work in co-ordination. Therefore, the principle of consultation with instructors is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategies, which needs to be reinforced by the students, particularly when they are determined to do well in their studies.

The Principle of Joint Venture

In the development of curriculum, the principle of joint venture is important. The researchers, educationists, educational technologists, psychologists, curriculum specialists, evaluation specialists, teachers, curriculum specialists, subject matter experts and so forth are required to work in co-ordination and integration with each other in leading to overall functioning of the educational institutions. These individuals are required to make use of their educational qualifications, skills and abilities in an effective manner. One needs to generate ideas and viewpoints in terms of various aspects. When the principle of joint venture is reinforced, the individuals are able to benefit in number of ways, i.e. obtaining support and help from others; developing motivation towards job duties; exchanging ideas and viewpoints; providing solutions to various types of problems in an efficient manner; forming cordial terms and relationships with others in an appropriate manner; achieving educational goals; reinforcing knowledge, skills and abilities; making wise and productive decisions; implementing time management skills and leading to up-gradation of the overall system of education. All the members need to be informative in terms of these factors throughout their jobs. Therefore, the principle of joint venture is the principle of curriculum and instructional strategies, which needs to be reinforced in educational institutions of all levels.

Factors required to be taken into account in the formulation of Principles of Curriculum and Instructional Strategies

The educators need to focus upon formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. When they are wholeheartedly determined in promoting student learning and leading to up-gradation of the overall system of education, they need to pay attention towards principles of curriculum and instructional strategies (Unit: 7 Principles of Curriculum Development, n.d.). The members of the educational institutions need to work in collaboration and integration with each other in the implementation of this task. They need to conduct research on regular basis and identify the areas, particularly which need to be improved. In the case of occurrence of any problems, they need to obtain support from others. Putting into practice effective communication processes is the key to do well in one's jobs and generate the desired outcomes. The instructors and students need to develop mutual understanding with each other. Factors required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are, educational needs and requirements of students, progression of students, reinforcing practical work and flexibility, implementing effective communication processes and conduct of the members. These are stated as follows:

Educational Needs and Requirements of Students

The instructors need to bring about changes in the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. When changes are implemented, it needs to be ensured, they are favourable and beneficial to the students. Students are able to do well and acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans. When instructors are recruited in educational institutions and training centres, they have the primary aim of doing well in their jobs. Hence, they need to be well-equipped in terms of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. The instructors need to be well-versed in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans that they are imparting to the students. Furthermore, they are to acquire an efficient understanding in terms of difficulties of the students and provide solutions to them. The students should be provided with the rights and opportunities to express their ideas and viewpoints. When they are not comfortable with any factor within the classroom settings, they should be allowed to redress their grievances. Therefore, educational needs and requirements of students is a vital factor required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Progression of Students

The students get enrolled in educational institutions to understand academic subjects and other factors that lead to up-gradation of their personality traits. Teachers have the primary objective of providing an efficient understanding of academic subjects and lesson plans to the students. After they have understood these in a well-organized manner, they do well in assignments, tests and exams. The instructors are required to convey the viewpoint to the students that they are not only learning to score good grades in tests and exams, but they are required to make use of their educational qualifications, skills and abilities in their lives. They need to inculcate the traits of morality, ethics, diligence and conscientiousness. The students are prepared to enhance their career prospects and promote well-being of their families and communities. Within the course of academic learning, students are overwhelmed by various types of problems. Measures need to be implemented to provide solutions to them. Furthermore, these need to be prevented from assuming a major form. Therefore, one is able to understand on a comprehensive basis that leading to progression of students is regarded as one of the significant factors that needs to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Reinforcing practical Work and Flexibility

In educational institutions of all levels, the instructors need to put emphasis on practical work and flexibility. The students should not be imparted information in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans theoretically, but they need to put emphasis on practical work as well. When the students are studying science subjects, the practical work will provide hands-on experience to the students. The flexibility approach is regarded as meaningful to bring about changes. The instructors need to bring about changes in the principles of curriculum and instructional strategies. When changes are implemented, it needs to be ensured, they are favourable and beneficial to the students. They are able to carry out their job duties in a well-ordered manner and acquire an efficient understanding of the academic subjects and lesson plans. When the instructors pay attention to bring about productive and useful changes, they prove to be advantageous to the students in achieving desired goals. Furthermore, the students will feel comfortable within the learning environment. Therefore, it is well-understood, reinforcing practical work and flexibility is an indispensable factor required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Implementing effective Communication Processes

The effective communication processes are regarded as fundamental to do well in one's job duties, achieve educational goals and lead to up-gradation of the overall system of education (Principles of Instruction, n.d.). The individuals need to communicate with each other in a respectful and disciplined manner. The communication processes takes place in a verbal and in a written form. Verbal communication takes place face to face or over the phone. Whereas, written communication takes place through exchanging messages, emails, letters, notices, or through any other written form. One needs to make use of polite language and decent words in the implementation of effective communication processes. Furthermore, one needs to make provision of factual information. When principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are to be formulated, one is required to generate ideas and viewpoints. The members need to develop mutual understanding and work in co-ordination. Hence, they recognise the meaning and significance of effective communication processes on a comprehensive basis. Therefore, implementing effective communication processes is a fundamental factor required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Conduct of the Members

It is comprehensively understood that to carry out job duties successfully, the individuals not only are required to possess efficient knowledge in terms of methods and approaches, but they need to be moral and ethical in their conduct. The morality and ethics are depicted in various ways, i.e. ability to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate; depicting efficiency in the implementation of job duties; reinforcing the traits of honesty, righteousness and truthfulness; providing factual and accurate information; making wise and productive decisions; taking out sufficient time for all tasks and activities; avoiding procrastination; depicting the traits of helpfulness and co-operation; treating others with respect and courtesy; making provision of equal rights and opportunities to all; not discriminating against others and making selection of the most suitable and meaningful alternative. All the members of the educational institutions, irrespective of their job positions in the hierarchy need to be well-versed in terms of these factors. When there are occurrence of any conflicting situations or disagreements, these need to be solved in an efficient manner. Therefore, conduct of the members is a meaningful factor required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies.

Conclusion

The principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are the values that need to be put into operation by the instructors to promote student learning, achieve academic goals and lead to up-gradation of the overall system of education. Principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are, suitability to the age and mental ability of the students, principles are required to be in accordance to the needs and abilities of the students, the curriculum should be environmentally centred, the principle of comprehensive curriculum, the principle of co-relation, the principle of hands-on work, the principle of flexibility, the principle of forward-looking, the principle of consultation with instructors and the principle of joint venture. Factors required to be taken into account in the formulation of principles of curriculum and instructional strategies are, educational needs and requirements of students, progression of students, reinforcing practical work and flexibility, implementing effective communication processes and conduct of the members. Finally, it can be stated, when principles of curriculum and instructional strategies will be reinforced, up-gradations will take place in the overall system of education.

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