

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT— ITS PROCESS

Curriculum development in its word meaning stands for the development of curriculum. It is defined as planned, purposeful, progressive, and systematic process to create positive improvements in the educational system. It is a systematic process to make the courses and programmes relevant to all. It is an evolutionary process.

Rogers and Taylor: Curriculum development describes all the ways in which teaching or training organisation plans and guides learning. This learning can take place in groups or with individual learners. It can take place inside or outside the classroom. It can take place in an institutional setting like school, college, training center, or in a village or a field. It is central to the teaching-learning process.

The curriculum development process goes through four steps of design. The team works together to create effective content.

1. **Goal specification:** Goal specification gives direction to formulation of curricular objectives and specifies the parameters of knowledge, skills, and values within which the curricular objectives are fitted. Thus, this stage involves identification and specification of instructional objectives. These goals are nothing but intended student development outcomes. These goals and objectives are specified in considerable detail and in behavioural language.
2. **Planning:** Planning forms the most essential stage in the process of curriculum development. It includes activities like
 - Writing outlines
 - Specification of scope
 - Content sequence
 - Selection of teaching-learning strategies
 - Identification of reading and reference material
3. **Validation:** It involves evaluation of the curriculum by expert bodies.
4. **Field testing:** It determines optimal conditions of programme use and studies links with other classrooms. It also deals with institutional operations.
5. **Quality control:** It means refining the curriculum for larger adoption.

Need and importance of curriculum development

- Curriculum development is a purposeful activity.
- It is undertaken to design or redesign for the realisation of certain specific educational objectives.

- The curriculum should be reviewed and revised on a regular basis so that it is able to serve the changing needs of both students and society.

Following points emphasise the needs and importance of curriculum development.

1. **Clear purpose and goals:** Curriculum development makes a provision for written curricular goals which are nothing but intended student learning outcomes. These goals and objectives are specified in considerable detail and in behavioural language.
2. **Continuous assessment and improvement of quality:** Valid and reliable assessment of curriculum is necessary. The curriculum followed by an institution should be reviewed regularly in order to maintain its effectiveness according to changing conditions of the society.
3. **A rational sequence:** In a curriculum educational activities are carefully ordered in developmental sequence. This developmental sequence helps to form a well-planned curriculum based on intended goals and outcomes of the curriculum and its constituent courses.
4. **Making strategy in teaching and learning:** Curriculum development helps in suggesting suitable teaching-learning strategies, teaching methods, instructional materials etc. It helps in the proper implementation of the curriculum on the part of teachers and learners.
5. **Helps in the selection of learning experiences:** Curriculum development is needed for appropriate selection of learning experiences. It helps in the selection of subject matter and other activities so that learners are able to attain intended learning outcomes.
6. **Helps in determination of educational objectives:** The process of curriculum development is needed for conceptualising a curriculum in terms of the determination of educational objectives for teaching-learning at a particular grade of school education.