

Culture and Curriculum

C. Mazhali and Dr. V. David Arputha Raj

Curriculum as Intellectual Training

Curriculum is considered to be an intellectual training. Culture is the most powerful source of leverage for bringing a change in a society. And so, culture and curriculum are intertwined together through the language impacts. Language is the only one tool which helps in transferring and reconstructing the cultural experiences. There are two types of culture – Eculturation and Acculturation. Eculturation is the transmission of cultural traditions from one generation to the next. Acculturation is the transmission of cultural traditions and new knowledge to the people who aren't aware of that.

Curriculum with Moral Stories

Curriculum had moral stories which are transferred from generation to generation that help in transmitting traditions. In a bilingual context the language that people chose is English and the knowledge sharing is done through a different medium other than the mother tongue. Culture is the belief and practice governing the life of a society for which a particular language is the vehicle of expression and the language is shaped by that culture. But slowly this transfer of the culture through stories is degrading and there is a banning of ethnic studies is happening. Historical events, nature of the society are not given to the next generation in today's context. Educators should be aware of the culture and the tradition and their values before they transmit it to the next generation. The understanding of a culture and its people can be enhanced by the knowledge of their language. This paper deals with the culture and curriculum which is very important in today's context.

Language and Culture

Language unlocks the culture. Through language we can learn, teach, explain, and acquire anything easily. The language makes difficult things easier. Language helps us to be in a comfort zone to share our thoughts. It represents our true color of personality. It reflects what we learn from the society. As a language learner we should use the language for the purpose of development. The development of a language is very important in the current scenario.

The usage of a language matters a lot. The fact is that no one knows the correct usage of a language. As we all know that there are certain rules to be followed when using a language. Many of us avoid and are not interested in using rules. Because learners think that following the rules are not necessary and are difficult. We should understand the truth if we want to learn something, first we must have the courage to get insulted. Insults serve as a medicine which shapes us to travel in the right path.

Preparation of Curriculum

In terms of language, preparing the curriculum is a hectic task in a multilingual forum. Curriculum never makes the learner as a tomfool. So the educational system in a multilingual society needs to reflect the authentic patterns of language used by the individuals in that society. A person who knows three or more languages presumably uses each of these languages in different contexts, for different purposes and at varying levels of proficiency. The curriculum should aim at ensuring the learners' ability to make linguistic choices in the future, while strengthening their proficiency in the dominant language - the language of social, economic and occupational mobility. The elements of curriculum can be developed and adjusted according to the special needs of the learners coming from such a community.

Multilingualism

In today's context, multilingualism is a common factor in smart classrooms. Due to this classroom learners are fortunate to get materials easily. Most of the time technology plays the role of a teacher mechanically. In good old days students were forced to sit and listen to the classes. But now, the scenario is entirely different, students can skip classes if they don't like the classes. The teaching methods are in change according to the level of their mind. The problem is that we regularly change the ways of teaching but we are hesitant to change the un-updated syllabus. Hereafter we should bring change in the curriculum for the enhancement of the cognition of the students.

Importance of Multilingual Society

Pupils from multilingual society have enough confidence to learn something new. But circumstances award negative comments rather than appreciation. They expect full freedom. Curriculum helps to form a sentence rather than improving their vocabulary. This is not fair in the academic forum which is meant for getting clear knowledge. Normally our syllabus gives vivid information which is unfamiliar to us. The new proverb clarifies the current situation of the competitive world - Each and every day you should be updated otherwise you will be outdated. In multilingual forum many advantages do exist.

Language Learning - A Matter of Growth

Language learning is a matter of growth. Learning has relatively fixed capacities under appropriate conditions. Bringing a new language with different cultures will definitely pave way for different language learning. It is from these differences that one's views are shaped. Views depend on the culture which has influenced them. Culture and curriculum are interconnected.

There is a large discourse that children learn about culture in school or at home. Which environment provides them with the learning process? We can sense the lack of ethnic studies in schools which affect the children. Naturally, schools act as a space or platform for the erudition of culture. Cultural identities are well fed by the schools. Including historical backgrounds of the country, races through social studies helps imply culture into their minds. The banning of ethnic studies from schools questions the role of education. The purpose of schooling isn't meant to be fluent in one subject area but also the empowerment of their life that happens with the help of culture studies.

Redefining Curriculum

What is curriculum? It is the subject matter being taught in the school, it contains the nature of the society and it is also the nature of the individual. Culture is transmitted through literature, art, music, dance and the other important facets in the curriculum. Culture must be implemented to the students in the young age which grow with them and then is transmitted to the next generation. Culture has to undergo many changes in all levels. Culture is continuously getting revived when the other culture enters the country.

Renunciation of the outside influence on culture curriculum sufficiently reflects a broad range of cultural, political and economic characteristics. Culture is the most powerful source of leverage for bringing about change in a school or any organization. Curriculum is considered to be an intellectual training. It consists of fundamental disciplines. Curriculum serves as a sequence of potential experience set up in the school for the purpose of disciplining the children and the youth. This brings a difference in the way of their thinking.

Recognition of the vital importance of transferring and reconstructing the cultural experiences through the curriculum is an important one. Such experiences include not only the cumulative tradition of knowledge but also the total culture of the society.

In olden days, classes were included moral stories and moral classes. These were not included in the curriculum. The syllabus does not contain those moral classes. But the students were taught with moral stories which are rich in cultural traditions. By these stories students are equipped with the culture. But now a days, we lack in these traditional values. Corporate cultures are inducted into the minds of the budding students which pave way for the destruction of the culture. The generations fail to carry the tradition to the next generation. Banning of ethnic studies also paves way for the destruction of the culture.

Underlying Processes of Education

Close attention to the underlying processes of education such as communication, cognition and social interaction will help in improving the ability of students in culture transmission. Cross-cultural approach in the development of educational programs and practices for cultural minorities are important. Minority education which includes cultural assimilation, cultural pluralism and cultural eclecticism are also found to be important aspect to be explored and used in the curriculum. Curriculum has extensive and pervasive educational functions. School goals are usually bound to be universalistic intellectual or social functions associated with the dominant society.

The traditional, intellectual and social functions are then confounded by the additional and seemingly invidious factors associated with cultural differences, such as conflicting values, varied learning styles, diverse behavior patterns, non-confirming social allegiances, and alternative perceptions of reality. These factors, when thrust into the amalgam of traditional school policies and practices, reveal the extent to which the school serves a concomitant function of inducing acculturative influences in the domains of values, attitudes, beliefs and social behavior.

Challenge to the Curriculum

A change in the curriculum following the old traditional values, cultural ethics by including the history of races, ethnic studies will help transferring the culture from one generation to the other. It naturally reflects in the society. Language acts as a tool to the transmission. Therefore, we can conclude that culture and curriculum are intertwined together and so if the curriculum is enriched with the culture the society can be transformed.

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C. Mazhali., M.A.
M.Phil. Scholar
Department of English and Foreign Languages
Bharathiar University
Coimbatore
Tamilnadu
India
mazhali1995@gmail.com

Dr. V. David Arputha Raj., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D
Assistant Professor
Department of English and Foreign Languages
Bharathiar University
Coimbatore
dr.v.davidarputharaj@gmail.com