

Q. No. Unit - II (5) :-

In what way, psychology is related to the different aspects of Curriculum construction? Discuss in details.

Ans. to the Q. No. Unit - II (5) :-

Title :- 'In what way, psychology is related to the different aspects of Curriculum construction.'

Introduction :-

In the Paper-09 i.e., 'Foundations of Curriculum Development', I got the assignment topic, 'In what way psychology is related to the different aspects of Curriculum construction'. Before going to discuss about this topic, first of all I want to explain about the meaning of Curriculum construction.

Meaning of Curriculum Construction:

Curriculum is the heart of the Education. The term 'Curriculum' has been derived from a Latin word 'Currere', which means 'a race course' or 'a run way' on which one runs to reach a goal.

Curriculum is a tool in the hands of the teachers to give training to children in the art of living together in the community. It is a tool which considerably helps to inculcate those standards of moral action which are essential for successful living in society.

Now, I am going to discuss about in what way psychology related to the different aspects of Curriculum constructions.

Main Discussion :-

Psychology is related to the different aspects of Curriculum Construction :-

Psychology is called science of behaviour. Education is a means to change the behaviour of learner. In this effort, curriculum plays an important role infact curriculum is a bridge in between teaching learning process of education.

Curriculum development should be on solid foundation of psychology. Curriculum developers besides knowing general psychology should also know educational psychology and child psychology.

Curriculum developers should have clear knowledge about the laws of learning as propounded by Thorndike. As

these laws are important in teaching learning. They also know the motivational level of learners.

School of Psychology and Curriculum

Psychology has developed in the form of different schools. The emergence of these schools of thought not only influenced the development of various trends and approaches for assessment of behaviour but also affected of psychology are enumerated below :—

(i) Structuralism :—

Wilhelm Wundt, a German professor was mainly responsible for the evaluation of this school of psychology. He focused his experiments on conscious experience involving one's thoughts, feelings, sensations, perceptions and ideas.

It provided introspection as a method of studying behaviour. Despite wide spread criticism, introspection is still regarded as one of the important methods for studying behaviour. Consequently, curriculum construction can benefit from the use of this method.

(ii) Functionalism :-

William James, the father of psychology in USA, is regarded as one of the pioneers of the functional school of psychology. Functionalism regarded as a more scientific and more practical system of psychology than structuralism.

It laid emphasis on functionality of the contents of the curriculum by advocating that only those things should be taught to the children which they could apply in everyday

life. Functionalism with the introduction of certain valuable techniques and devices like the questionnaire, inventory, mental tests and various other means for the objective description of behaviour.

(iii) Behaviourism :-

Behaviourism as a method of studying behaviour focused its attention totally on the observable behaviour.

For this purpose, it tried to reduce all of man's activity, including his thinking, feeling and volition to the level of that behaviour, which could be observed and objectively recorded.

Behaviourism highlighted the role of motivation and definition of the aims and purpose of learning and shaping behaviour. Behaviourism gave rise to new ideas and innovations in the field of learning, organising curriculum and instruction.

(iv) Gestalt Psychology :-

According to Gestalt Psychology, an individual perceives the thing as a whole and not as a mere collection of its constituents or elements.

In the construction and organisation of the curricula and syllabi, due consideration is being given to the Gestalt principle. The concerned subject matter of a particular subject is always organised as a whole and the curriculum comprising different subjects and activities is formed as to reflect unity and cohesiveness among them.

(v) Constructivism :-

Constructivism is a recent development in the field of education. Simply stated it is a learning process which allow a students to experience an environment first hand, thereby giving the reliable, trust worthy knowledge.

The student is required to act the environment to both acquire and test new knowledge. It is new theory in the teaching learning process that believes that learning is creating meaning of the world through a series of constructs. It has the great support in the part of the learner independency and individuality.

These are all about the various type of curriculum constructions which are related to psychological foundations of curriculum.

Conclusion :-

In this assignment, I had discussed about 'In what way psychology is related to the different aspects of curriculum construction?' Curriculum is the heart of the Education and it is a tool in the hands of the teachers.

Thus, we can conclude as Curriculum development should be on solid foundation of psychology.

Curriculum developers besides knowing general psychology should also know educational psychology and child psychology.

Reference :-

(i) Mahanta, Dr. N.N and Borah, N.N (2019). Foundations of Curriculum development. Panbazar, Guwahati: Mani Manik Prakash.

(ii) Saikia, Dr. Mukul (2016). An introduction to curriculum Development. panbazar. Guwahati: Mani Manik Prakash.