

THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract- In order for curriculum development to be effective and schools to be successful, teachers must be involved in the development process. An effective curriculum should reflect the philosophy, goals, objectives, learning experiences, instructional resources, and assessments that comprise a specific educational program (“Guide to curriculum development,” 2006). It can be subject specific or a generalized overview of expectation. It must be a usable tool to assist teachers in the development of individualized strategies and the methods and materials necessary for them to be successful.

Key words: curriculum development, teacher involvement, challenge in curriculum development

1. Introduction

The goal of a successful education management and curriculum development should be to meet the requirement and demand of the culture the society and the expectation of the population being served. Curriculum development is defined as planned, a purposeful, progressive, and systematic process to create positive improvements in the educational system. Every time there are changes or developments happening around the world, the school curricula are affected. There is a need to update them to address the society’s needs. While thinking about education, the most important idea that comes to mind is curriculum. Curriculum is a channel that school administration needs for giving educational and life skills to students.

The word curriculum has roots in Latin. It originally meant “racing chariot” and came from the verb career, “to run. Curriculum development and the educational reform process continually under goes review, revision, and constant change (Johnson, 2001). Curriculum development can be challenging, therefore the

involvement of all stakeholders, especially individuals who are directly involved in student instruction, are a vital piece in successful curriculum development and revision (Johnson, 2001).

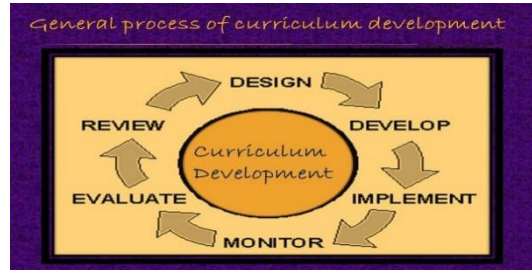


Fig.1: Curriculum Development

2. Teachers' Importance in Curriculum

Each state establishes content standards and educational benchmarks by grade level. School districts apply these standards to develop a curricular framework for teachers. Teachers hold the key to the curriculum process. Using a wide variety of techniques, teachers encourage learning by delivering content in creative and impactful ways. Whole-group instruction, individualized attention, experiential education and using a global lens, are methods that provide teachers with avenues for success in the curriculum process.

The role of teachers in the curriculum process is to help students develop an engaged relationship with the content. Active learning will increase the focus and retention of the curriculum, resulting in an exciting learning environment. Teachers build lessons that include simulations, experiments, case studies and activities to deliver curriculum. This interactive approach intertwines curriculum and practical experiences that immerse students in learning. The curriculum process provides opportunity for teachers to be creative and put their unique stamp on the classroom experience.

Without doubt, the most important person in the curriculum implementation process is the teacher. With their knowledge, experiences and competencies, teachers are central to any curriculum development effort. Better teachers support

better learning because they are most knowledgeable about the practice of teaching and are responsible for introducing the curriculum in the classroom.

If another party has already developed the curriculum, the teachers have to make an effort to know and understand it. So, teachers should be involved in curriculum development. For example, teacher's opinions and ideas should be incorporated into the curriculum for development. On the other hand, the curriculum development team has to consider the teacher as part of the environment that affects curriculum (Carl, 2009). Hence, teacher involvement is important for successful and meaningful curriculum development. Teachers being the implementers are part of the last stage of the curriculum development process.

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