

## What is Curriculum

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In the middle ages, it is reasonable to assert that teachers worded with material, which was relatively raw. Worthwhile experience was selected without much thought being given to the form in which it should be organized or transmitted. The university teachers used to meet on the opening day of each academic year to decide which source books they would lecture from. There was no prescribed order in which the texts were to be studied (W. Dunn, 1984).

Gradually, however the raw material of a degree / course was subjected to increasing amounts of formalization/structuring before it reached the hands and minds of teachers and learners. Indeed, in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century appearance of the word curriculum (Latin: a course or track used in athletic competitions) marked this re-organization. When earlier writers wanted to refer to programs of study they used works like “rules and regulations” to denote the elements of compulsion in the program; and terms like “Scheme” to denote the internal structuring of the program.

The earliest knowledge of educational use of the word “curriculum” dates back to the reformation at the Universities of Glasgow and Leyden in 1577. The

courses were reduced in length, teaching was planned according to a rigid program, examinations were more closely regulated and teachers were expected to profess their religious faith and attend compulsory worship.

The word “curriculum” began to be used in the wake of these changes. It comprised of three elements, i- entry, ii- education event and iii- exit examination. The curriculum derives its educational “energy” from the statements of learning objectives and the “bonding” of its constituents from the rules and regulations. At present curriculum includes structuring of:

- a) Curriculum contents and their educational objectives instead of syllabus.
- b) Scheme of course and Curriculum organizer instead of timetable
- c) Educational strategies instead of teaching methods.
- d) Assessment of the output with reference to the aims of the course rather than the examination.

It is hoped that readers will find this re visit to word curriculum interesting.



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