

ENRICHING CURRICULUM – USING LOCAL WISDOM

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Abstract

It is time to realize that education has to come out of its of school campus. That is education has to be inter connected with the society and available resources in it. It's a narrow approach towards the curriculum by including the school activities, academic and non-academic only and thus neglecting a very good resource called Local Wisdom to enrich the curriculum. Local wisdom means availability of human skill or wisdom which is easily accessible or something that is within the reach. Although technology has advanced a lot, Educational advancement still works in isolation and still there are challenges we face. The best use of local wisdom could be done in such case through the available resources to enrich curriculum. There are many talented persons possessing excellent skill which can give ample motivation and reinforcement to accelerate the inquisitiveness of the students and increase their enthusiasm. Values, Morals, Science etc. can be taught easily and effectively with the same. Using local wisdom to enrich the curriculum is the need of this hour. Thus, using Local Wisdom is the key of the best management of educational institutions and make the education accessible to all.

Keywords: curriculum, teacher, student, local, wisdom, local wisdom

Education cannot be static and fixed or unchanging as it has to be planned according to the changing circumstances and needs of a particular society or nation. The individuality and personality of the learner must be known before he is taught or subjected to behaviour modification. The process and pattern of growth and development during different stages of an individuals life, his instincts and other innate abilities, the learned and acquired abilities, individual difference in terms of abilities and capacities and their measures such as the extent of interests, aptitudes, attitudes, intelligence, creativity are also important for personality appraisal.

These days children have to go for certain activities because they are scheduled. There is no willingness amongst the students. They prefer just to finish their home work rather than learning and developing those skills. These and many more are the comments heard and felt by the real academicians. It is time to realize that education has to come out of its boundary wall of a school campus. The education needs to be Inter connected with the society and available resources in it. Including the academic and non-academic school activities only is a narrow approach towards the curriculum. Local wisdom is that wonderful resource which has been often neglected by education and can enrich the curriculum.

Local wisdom means availability of human skill or wisdom. Local is difficult to put it into the term of area and perimeter but then Local refers to easily accessible or something that is within the reach. Thus, local wisdom means that resource whether natural or manmade or human himself which is easily available or accessible and possesses the skill or wisdom.

Need: It is expected that through education, the physical, mental, social, cultural, cognitive and psycho-motor development of a child can be achieved. Day by day the role of education is increasing. Education shapes the destiny of any nation. The quality of human power in any country ultimately determines the sustainable well being of its people. Thus, education is of utmost importance for the learning of human beings. Educational advancement still works in isolation. Thanks to the technological advancement that it has made the world smaller and brought the people together. But still there are challenges. Out of 11562 colleges in India, only 10% have Internet. Out of 250 universities in India only 5% have Internet. Thus looking at the statistics it can be easily understood about the need of local wisdom to enrich the school curriculum.

Application of Local Wisdom

The local wisdom can be used easily and effectively in the benefit of the students and teachers and hence the education. There are several applied examples most of which are known to us and even used by us but was used without any idea of using the local wisdom.

The best use of local wisdom is an applied example of Kalor district in Karnataka, near Bangalore. A British person called David Hosbrough, who ran away during 2nd world war, set up a school at Neelbagh. He had nothing much to start his mission other than his will. He collected the children around the villages and trained some of the educated people of that village for teaching. He did carpentry to make mathematical equipments and taught his children plumbing, carpentry, cooking, singing and all other subjects. It was a school of free education for all the children. He used human and natural resources to enrich curriculum.

Again there are many talented personalities in and around us. Mr. Suresh Bhandarkar a blind man (uneducated person) possesses such an excellent questioning skill that wherever he goes he involves the whole class. The motivation and reinforcers used by him accelerate the inquisitiveness of all the students and all the students participate in that session with full enthusiasm.

The puppetiers using their puppets teach a lot to the people. History, civics, values, morals, science etc. can be taught easily and effectively with the same. Such and many more personalities are beside and around us. The need is their proper, timely and maximum use in our education.

Advantages

Following are the advantages of using local wisdom.

It involves low cost and hence could be easily afforded in education; It involves interconnection of Society and School; It involves enrichment of curriculum by not only knowledge dominated people rather efficient at manual work also; It is better assimilation of concepts with use of all familiar things and people; It makes the teaching learning process easy; It develops interest amongst the students in education. It lessens the teacher job; It requires less effort for management and administration; It involves other teaching methods and techniques then just lecturing; It conveys the society that home can be a better school.

Limitations: Enrichment of curriculum through using Local Wisdom is even not as easy as we can think of. There are several limitations for an institution: -

These days there has been huge burden on students as well as schools teachers for the completion of courses and it's drilling. A huge amount of time is consumed on it. Usually using any outside resources takes time for its preparation and presentation. Therefore the effectivity of such activities loses their impact; Many schools have large number of students in their classrooms. For such activities less number of students is always a sensible idea. Therefore the utility and effectivity is hardly possible; Generally everyone is not keen to put in their efforts to identify the Local Wisdom. One has to have deeper understanding of the present curriculum and its requirement. This is way of having human resource that may be efficient in the identification of Local Wisdom and have comprehensive understanding of the curriculum and its chronological upgradation.

Suggestions

Though it is hard task to imbibe local wisdom appropriately in the curriculum but gives a sweet fruit and add to the glory of the institution. It motivates the students for learning. Therefore schools will have always fewer dropouts from their schools. There are some suggestions to involve the Local Wisdom and get it's fruitful result of enriching curriculum.

Institution must motivate their teachers to be experimental in their teaching – learning process: Institutions must facilitate the time, space and required equipments; Institutions must motivate their teachers to be innovative and effective. There can be some kinds of rewards, who put in their efforts in this field; Teachers must understand that Local Wisdom is to enrich the curriculum not the supplement of their efforts. So the fear is that teacher's may step back thinking their content has already been covered through Local Wisdom; Institutions must get in touch with other institutions which are already practicing and have enriches their curriculum, whether they are within the country or abroad; Institutions have to understand their requirements and explore the areas to fulfill through local resources.

Conclusion

Using of local wisdom to enrich the curriculum is the need of this hour. In this world of competition where every education institutions are in the race of producing better results, they need to sit back and introspect what they are doing with the future of the nation and future of the children. Using local wisdom is the key of the best management of educational institutions and make the education accessible to all.

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