

Contemporary Curriculum: A Methodological Framework On Skill-Based Education In Language Learning

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Abstract:

In the present scenario, a contemporary curriculum is the best implementation of learning activities for student-centric learning, drawing upon the learners' experiences in and around the language classroom. For young learners, education should be skill-based rather than knowledge-based learning. The present article focuses on skill-based education towards language learning effectively. According to NEP 2020, the paradigm shift turned towards learners' drive towards their life and employability skills. It prepares students across all curriculum areas and learning stages with skills and capabilities to thrive in a rapidly changing and interconnected world. It connects students and engages their sense of curiosity. Learning is a process in which an individual's knowledge or behavior changes due to experience (Education); different learning theories propose different viewpoints on what is important and how learning occurs. This article emphasizes the importance of skill-based education and its description, characteristics, benefits, and drawbacks. Teachers must focus on contemporary curriculum, prior experiences and knowledge of students, learner interests, student learning styles, and the learner's developmental levels while developing instructional tactics. Its result outcomes shape the learners to enhance their critical thinking conceptual knowledge & to be creative in their learning activities to become lifelong learners, especially in their reading comprehension.

Keywords: Contemporary Curriculum, NEP 2020, Skill-Based Education, Language Learning, Reading Comprehension & Self-Independent learners

Introduction:

The most powerful tool for influencing people's development and future is education. The development of kids' high-order linguistic and cognitive abilities is required to reach that power. Approaches and strategies that are centered on pupils are used in the field of education to achieve that. Such techniques include the constructivist approach, student-centered education, and

activity- and skills-based systems. These methods place a strong emphasis on the development of abilities including analysis, comprehension, inquiry, problem-solving, research, and evaluation. With the use of these abilities, students are supposed to enhance their understanding of cooperation, dispute resolution, social skills, and civic responsibility. Since students are expected to possess the abilities of

the twenty-first century, teaching skills, as opposed to knowledge, stands out in the field of education.

Definition of contemporary curriculum:

A contemporary curriculum is best defined as the implementation of learning activities that are learner-centric and are drawn upon the learners' experiences in and around the language classroom

Purpose of contemporary curriculum:

The purpose of contemporary curriculum in education is to shape the learners in their language learning to enhance the learners:

- ✚ Critical thinking skills
- ✚ Creativity
- ✚ Interpersonal skills &
- ✚ A sense of social responsibility all influences success in life, work, and citizenship.

Education has to adapt contemporary education approaches and practices to create a knowledge society. In this process, priority should be given to the skills that constitute the basis of lifelong learning and progress, basic skills, language, and mental skills. In the learning process, it is necessary to develop skills such as understanding the learned, transferring it to practice, and structuring in the mind instead of getting knowledge through memorizing. On the other hand, most of the information learned at school is superficial and students do not know how to apply what they learn in the field. This situation causes important problems in terms of attaining educational goals, improving the language, and developing the mental, social and emotional skills of the students.

The skill-based approach aims to increase the effect and efficiency of education, improve the knowledge and skills of individuals and train individuals who will give direction to the future.

Today's societies are divided into the information society and the knowledge society. In the information society, information is stored and transferred to others through processing questions, such as “what, where, why, how, and when.” In the knowledge society, the emphasis is placed on the use and production of information rather than storage.

For young learners, education should be skill-based rather than knowledge-based learning. The present article focuses on skill-based education towards language learning effectively. According to NEP 2020, the paradigm shift turned towards learners' drive towards their life and employability skills.

Skill Based Approach also solves the complexity of education and career planning. It is useful in education, higher education, and early career development. Once someone gets how the methodology and application work, everything makes sense.

What is a skill & Why do adopt a Skill-Based Approach in Language Learning?

The term skill has a long history in the field of education. In the past, the term “skill” was used to represent behaviors that can be observed and which required professionalism, and the focus was on improving the behavior. Today, on the other hand, the term skill focuses on the mind and what is understood from the word is improving language, cognitive and social competencies, and the focus is on improving these competencies in the process of education (Boutin, 2004).

This change is also reflected in the definitions of the term “skill.” In old definitions, skill is defined as a **“collection of behaviors.”** To illustrate, Lévy-Leboyer defines skill as **“a collection of behaviors that enables performing a job efficiently and effectively and that requires proficiency.”**

According to Tardif, skill is a system of information (procedural, conditional and

declarative) used in situations such as identifying problems, producing solutions and cognitive processes (Bronckart, 2009).

As for Piaget and Vygotsky, skill is the integration of new knowledge obtained through physical and social interaction with prior knowledge in mind and construction of knowledge (Quiesse, 2007).

To some authors, skill is the collection of an individual's personal and cognitive capacity. Briefly, today the term skill is considered a **“collection of knowledge and cognitive processes”** (Güneş, 2014).

According to NEP 2020, the paradigm shift turned towards learners' drive towards their life and employability skills. It prepares students across all curriculum areas and learning stages with skills and capabilities to thrive in a rapidly changing and interconnected world. It connects students and engages their sense of curiosity.

Learning is a process in which an individual's knowledge or behavior changes due to experience (Education); different learning theories propose different viewpoints on what is important and how learning occurs.

A Methodology Framework for Skill-Based approach:

- ✚ Basis for lifelong learning. Tracks all learning into task-based activities
- ✚ Way to practice adaptive and personalized learning. Users work with an evolving skill set and competencies.
- ✚ Set goals, target methods, and communicate with and find mentors.
- ✚ Create learning plans for later career options.
- ✚ Widget to share a skill set with an expanded audience.
- ✚ Accumulate all types of credentials
- ✚ Cross integration functionality

Characteristics of Skill-Based Approach:

SBA has different characteristics. These are important in the process of developing the skill. Bissonnette & Richard, 2001; Dionnet, 2002; Güneş, 2014; OECD, 2005 listed some of them below:

- ✚ Skill requires interrelated prior knowledge, practices, attitudes and techniques and all of these are integrated during practice.
- ✚ The activities to develop skill should be based on prior learning of students and should be acquired through activities. The skill levels changes depending on the level of education and age.
- ✚ Skill is not for the past but the future. The future is planned through the skill and possibilities are evaluated. The students will be alone in different learning environments in the future. They will continue learning on their own. In such cases, skill is a preexisting power and ensures learning.
- ✚ Skill can be explained as managing a certain task or condition efficiently. Skill is complex and performed in an applied way through managing different situations. Skill cannot be developed partially and gradually but in a holistic and interconnected way.
- ✚ The assignments and tasks given to the students should not be a mere repetition of what is learned but an application of the skill in different situations.
- ✚ The skill is an efficient power. To use this, individuals have to be conscious. If an individual cannot guide his/her competencies depending on his/her objectives and needs, s/he will lose it in a very short time.

Benefits of Skill-Based Approach:

- ✦ It helps the learners to understand the concept in an easier way
- ✦ It promotes analytical skills
- ✦ It connects education with employment expectations
- ✦ It helps the learners to choose their own choices in different ways to build rapport and validate to upgrade their skills
- ✦ It creates technical skills for the career development
- ✦ It suggests the learners become lifelong learners and master their skills in all the areas of their language learning

Skill-Based Approach in Language Learning:

The skill-based approach ensures that a good amount of instructional time is dedicated to teaching students how to read, think, write, and speak in all subject areas.

Through Skill-based teaching, students develop the ability to read complex texts and express sophisticated ideas on their own.

A skill-based approach emphasizes the ongoing development of language skills, such as **phonemic awareness, spelling, sentence construction, reading fluency, and vocabulary** development in reading comprehension.

Conclusion:

Skill-based learning is considered compulsory for individuals in their daily life to improve their capacity, integrate with society, and succeed in business life. In addition, it is essential to develop the existing competencies of an individual and to add new ones in terms of ensuring adaptation to the rapid changes and development in the world, innovation, production, and productivity.

Having rich competencies increase the motivation and satisfaction of an individual and ensures that s/he is successful in daily life and business life. Thus, s/he plays an active role in

society and contributes to the development of his/her country. To ensure and sustain these developments, competencies should be focused on in education.

Teachers must focus on contemporary curriculum, prior experiences and knowledge of students, learner interests, student learning styles, and the learner's developmental levels while developing instructional tactics. Its result outcomes shape the learners to enhance their critical thinking conceptual knowledge & to be creative in their learning activities to become lifelong learners, especially in their reading comprehension.

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