STUDY OF INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Manisha Patel[1], Dr. Dipti P. Bhatt[2]

Department of Education, JG University, Ahmedabad.

Associate Professor, JG College of Education (PG), Ahmedabad.
Email: gatusanju@gmail.com

Abstract

Education is a complex world with many styles, values, and philosophies. Interdisciplinary education is similar to multidisciplinary in the sense that it looks to combine knowledge from multiple disciplines. Interdisciplinary's focus is to combine theories, methodologies and perspectives from two or more disciplines; it connects a single theme or idea across disciplines. Interdisciplinary learning is a wonderful way to totally integrate school education into a comprehensive unit rather than scrambling to draw connections between seemingly unrelated parts. It empowers students to see tangible correlations across subject matters rather than view each in a silo. An interdisciplinary approach has been at the core of attention in school education recently. In this approach, teachers collaborate to invent more effective means of teaching by associating the subjects and activities of a school subject in the curriculum with other subjects. The findings of this study suggest that an interdisciplinary approach should be included in the school programs. Preparing students to work with and on interdisciplinary teams enhances their interpersonal skills sets, empathy, and marketability. The study reveals the benefits of using an interdisciplinary approach in school classes, as it can potentially sharpen students' understanding of various subjects thereby enabling them to become well-supported, creative and better learners. An interdisciplinary approach is a must for the future of school education.

Keywords: *Interdisciplinanry, approach, intellectual, challenges*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of interdisciplinary approach is not an entirely novel thing because in the ancient Indian Education system the education was imparted in Gurukula's in which there used to be a single guru who taught all kind of relevant education (all disciplines) alone and there was least division of subjects rather the whole education is treated as single subject. Later on with the advent of foreign invaders the education system of India had started experiencing deterioration. Especially the Britishers who wanted to prepare that class of Indians which were physically Indians but mentally the supporters of Britishers. For that Britishers had destroyed the Gurukul System of education completely from India. And established their own education system which was although very scientific in nature but divided into various disciplines.Since then we are experiencing an education system which was developed by britishers to use the brain of Indians for the betterment of their own country. Although after 1947 there has been a lot of changes in the Indian education System but the impact of education has not changed much. Now in the present scenario the disciplinary approach of studying all the discipline separately has been losing its importance and trans-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approach are back with objective of giving practical shape to the knowledge of different disciplines.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

It is a technique or a tool that develops mutual relationship for better and improved understanding of the subject. We cannot say any knowledge permanent unless we correlate one discipline with other. Interdisciplinary approach is essential because-
➢   It provides stable knowledge
➢   It reduces the time in acquiring the knowledge
➢   It develops interest in the subject
➢   It reduces the burden of curriculum
➢   It provides multi-dimensional knowledge
➢   It support the teacher and learner in finding correlation between use and application of what have been taught and learned in new and different ways
Following are the few reasons of growing popularity of interdisciplinary research. Interdisciplinary research helps to solve conflict of interest among stakeholders of the company. Sometimes interdisciplinary research is seen as a remedy to the harmful effects of excessive specialization in management. Interdisciplinary research collaboration results in new solutions to problems, much information is given back to the various disciplines

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involved. Some of the field in management such as consumer's behaviour, investor's behaviour, employee's behaviour cannot be addressed without combining the approaches of two or more disciplines. To achieve new results that could not have been produced if the participating researcher would have derived the information from single discipline. Major Barriers to Interdisciplinary Research Interdisciplinary research is hard to publish. Interdisciplinary research may not give desired result if not given sufficient autonomy. More time and effort consuming Institutions and intellectuals also make a daunting challenge of conducting research outside one's usual domain. Sometimes Research Guide is so packed with the researcher of core discipline that it is difficult to concentrate on researcher outside the discipline.

ADVANTAGES OF INTER DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Interdisciplinary Approach is relevant tool for high quality and effective learning and teaching situations. It has the following advantages-
1. Learners work individually and collaboratively.
2. Learners are motivated and involved; they demonstrate an inquisitive attitude.
3. Learners develop confidence in facing challenges, both intellectual and practical.
4. Learning is connected and directly related to real life experiences.
5. It allows more in-depth exploration of topics, issues and problems with in and across subject areas and disciplines.
6. It supports the development of skills of learning, life and work.
7. It promotes critical thinking by supporting learners.
8. It enables the understanding of different perspectives across subject areas and disciplines.
9. It makes learners want to understand the different curricular areas in greater depth.

DISADVANTAGES OF INTER DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

While the interdisciplinary approach in school education has its merits, there are some disadvantages to consider.
1. Lack of Specialization: Students may not develop expertise in a specific subject area as the interdisciplinary approach often involves a broad range of topics. This could be a drawback for those who wish to pursue specialized fields later on.
2. Difficulty in Assessment: Assessing interdisciplinary learning can be challenging as traditional grading methods might not effectively capture the depth of understanding across multiple subjects.
3. Teacher Expertise: Implementing interdisciplinary education requires teachers with a diverse skill set and knowledge base. Finding educators proficient in multiple subjects can be difficult, impacting the quality of instruction.
4. Time Constraints: Integrating multiple subjects into a single curriculum can lead to time constraints. Teachers may struggle to cover all topics adequately, potentially sacrificing depth for breadth.
5. Resource Allocation: Schools may face challenges in allocating resources effectively, such as funding, materials, and specialized personnel, to support a well-rounded interdisciplinary program.
6. Standardized Testing Misalignment: Interdisciplinary approaches might not align seamlessly with standardized testing, which can impact how schools are evaluated and students are assessed.
7. Resistance to Change: Implementing a new approach can face resistance from educators, parents, or even students accustomed to traditional teaching methods, hindering successful adoption.
8. Logistical Challenges: Coordinating schedules, lesson plans, and collaboration among teachers from different disciplines can be logistically challenging and may require substantial effort and planning.
It is important to note that these disadvantages do not necessarily outweigh the benefits and the success of an interdisciplinary approach depends on effective implementation and ongoing evaluation.

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION TECHNIQUES

1. Holistic Learning: Interdisciplinary education aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of a topic by combining insights from various disciplines.
2. Real-World Relevance: It helps students see the connections between subjects, making their learning more relevant to everyday life and future careers.
3. Critical Thinking: Encourages critical thinking as students analyse problems from different perspectives, promoting a deeper understanding of complex issues.
4. Problem-Solving Skills: Students develop effective problem-solving skills by applying knowledge and methods from different disciplines to address multifaceted challenges.
5. Collaboration: Interdisciplinary projects often require collaboration, fostering teamwork and communication skills among students.

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6. Creativity: It nurtures creativity as students explore diverse approaches and solutions, breaking away from rigid subject boundaries.

7. Adaptability: Prepares students for a rapidly changing world by teaching them how to adapt and apply knowledge across various contexts.

8. Integration of Technology: Facilitates the use of technology, as interdisciplinary projects often involve leveraging diverse tools and resources.

9. Engagement: Enhances student engagement by making learning more dynamic and interactive, tapping into varied interests and learning styles.

10. Global Perspectives: Provides a global perspective by examining issues from different cultural, historical, and geographical angles.

11. Lifelong Learning: Instils a love for learning and encourages a mindset of continuous exploration and discovery beyond traditional subject boundaries.

12. Assessment Challenges: However, assessing interdisciplinary learning can be challenging, requiring innovative evaluation methods that capture the richness of integrated knowledge.

13. Teacher Collaboration: Requires collaboration among educators from different disciplines to design and implement interdisciplinary curricula effectively.

14. Resource Integration: Ensures effective integration of resources, including textbooks, materials, and technologies, to support interdisciplinary learning experiences.

15. Policy Support: Successful implementation often relies on supportive educational policies that encourage flexibility and innovation in curriculum design.

CONCLUSION

The interdisciplinary approach in school education is a dynamic and innovative pedagogical strategy that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. By fostering holistic understanding, critical thinking, and practical skills, it equips students to tackle complex issues in the real world. Emphasizing collaboration, adaptability and creativity, this approach not only enriches the learning experience but also prepares students for a rapidly changing and interconnected global landscape. While challenges such as assessment methods and teacher collaboration exist, the overall benefits underscore the importance of adopting an interdisciplinary perspective to cultivate well-rounded, engaged and adaptable learners.

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