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Address

- Vikram Nagar, Boudhi Chouk, Latur.
- Tq. Latur, Dis. Latur 413512 (MS.)
- (+91) 9922455749, (+91) 9158387437

Email

- aiirjpramod@gmail.com

Website

- www.aiirjournal.com

CHIEF EDITOR – PRAMOD PRAKASHRAO TANDALE

Need of interdisciplinary approaches in higher education

Mrs.Saraswati Kamble

Ph.D. Research Student
Department of Education
Shivaji University ,Kolhapur
Kamblesaraswati74@gmail.com.

Dr.T.B.Naik

Assist. Professor,
Smt.Maharani Tarabai College of Education ,
Kolhapur
vikrant_tarsing_naik@yahoo.com

Abstract :

Educational experiences are more authentic and are of great value of students when the curricula reflects real life, which is multifaceted rather than being compartmentalized into neat subject matter packages. Interdisciplinary approach is such a new dimension that provides knowledge and skills from different disciplines by team of experts to make graduates and post graduates more employable and future leaders to address the new challenges of changing world. Interdisciplinary approach increases students learning, uncover preconceptions and recognize the bias, advances critical thinking and cognitive development appreciates ethical dimensions of concerns and promotes significant learning. The present paper focuses the new dimensions of interdisciplinary practices, it's need and benefits in order make the higher education more productive.

Key words - Interdisciplinary approach, significant learning.

Introduction:-

Education plays an indispensable role in the social and economic development of people and nation.

Institution of higher education provide ample opportunity for creation, dissemination and application of knowledge. India has produced about more than 6 crores well educated youth who are unemployed because of lack of required talent.

A report by Yash Pal Committee on Renovation and Rejuvenation of higher Education emphasizes, the need for interdisciplinary experiences that should help student sustain themselves when demands of a particular job market change. It would mean that students should be exposed to multiple subject under the aegis of one university or college.

Definition -

- 1) Interdisciplinary practices in higher education refers to the integration of two or more disciplines or fields of study in relation to research, instruction and programme, certification and degree offering

OR

Interdisciplinary approach means involving two or more academic, scientific or artistic areas of knowledge or involving two or more disciplines

- 2) Significant learning - when meaningful and lasting classroom experiences occur it is called significant learning

According to a Survey of European University Association, the core skills a student must possess are;

- 1) Social and Communication skills
- 2) Management
- 3) Creative thinking
- 4) Capacity of dealing with complex and multidisciplinary work,
- 5) Team work

As skills and knowledge are engines of economic growth and social development. There is need of regular college; to

- 1) Ensure knowledge construction by designing employable curricula
- 2) Knowledge dissemination through effective teaching
- 3) Knowledge use by application of knowledge
- 4) Knowledge embodiment by making the student as a needed product
- 5) This can be obtained not from curriculum but application of knowledge through skills.

Benefits of teaching with an interdisciplinary approaches :

- 1) Interdisciplinary teaching increases students learning.
- 2) It help students to uncover preconception and recognize bias
- 3) It helps students tolerate or embrace ambiguity.
- 4) It helps students to appreciate ethical dimensions of concerns.
- 5) It promotes significant learning
- 6) It promotes understanding when student learn in heterogeneous ways
- 7) It promotes understanding when student learn in heterogeneous ways
- 8) Interdisciplinary teaching is not too costly and it's rewarding.
- 9) It prepares higher education graduates for future employment and leadership positions and to address all of the current and emerging challenges.

Interdisciplinary Teaching Trends :

Many teaching subjects like research methods, gender, international development organizational management, ethics and values and environmental studies are interdisciplinary in nature.

- 1) Among the most notables area of interdisciplinary in higher education campuses are the traditional and online classrooms. Teaching in teams and to student from various departments.
- 2) Bringing the faculty members from various background to provide instruction and training witting the fields of study that were previously thought by their own faculty.

- 3) The curricula of many disciplines must impart supplemental courses with new and emerging technologies and business management skills.
- 4) The choice bases credit system which is a fast evolving system of delivering degree and post graduate programmes in universities and colleges which believes in developing vocational skills among students.
- 5) Including corporate expert's in boards of studies and assimilating inputs from industry.
- 6) The additional degree programmes also provides options for students from one stream to qualify another category based on the requirement of the employer.
- 7) Besides knowledge students should pick transferable skills and it should be incorporated in the curriculum.
- 8) Technology teaching shifts helped faculty members from different fields of study collaborate through a variety of co-instructional approaches.
- 9) Massive open online courses (Moos) bring in a new dynamic in interdisciplinary teaching. People who want to develop new skills or learn more about a certain subject often enroll to Mooc.

Limitations:

Though there have been consistent calls for on increase in interdisciplinary approaches in higher education, following are some limitations.

- 1) Traditional nature of institution discourages interdisciplinary practices
- 2) In many instances higher education policies and management bureaucracies discourage ID practices.
- 3) There is integration confusion
- 4) Time consuming curricula preparation
- 5) Lack of sufficient time for collaborative work
- 6) Lack of training in group dynamics
- 7) Overlapping roles
- 8) Territorial and status conflicts
- 9) Inadequate funding.

Summary:

Interdisciplinary approach is essential for filling the gap between the3 institutional input and real life professional requirements It is helpful to prepare life for different carriers rather than carrier for a life as the students are learning lots of transferable skills and constructive knowledge that can be applicable wherever necessary.

Conclusion:

Interdisciplinary approach combines two or more disciplines together for the research or instructional purposes. Through this approach student are prepared with task performance capabilities focused on acquiring skills and building conceptual performance which is behavior related. Interesting interdisciplinary approach in higher education enables graduates and postgraduates of 21st Century more productive promising and having

capabilities to face real world problem. So no single discipline can adequately describe and resolve the real world problems.

Therefore interdisciplinary forms of learning are prevalent and growing in abundance through out the higher education

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