



An Approach to Academic Disciplines & Subjects

KEYWORDS

Academic disciplines, subjects

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ABSTRACT Education is a continuous process in life of the human being since birth. Higher education provides necessary skills and training required for the future career of an individual. But before any type of higher education students must know about different subjects and academic discipline. In this presentation I describe the different disciplines and the sub disciplines (subjects). Training in a discipline results in a system of orderly behaviour recognized as characteristic of the discipline. Such behaviours are manifested in scholars' approaches to understanding and investigating new knowledge, ways of working, and perspectives on the world around them.

A school subject is an area of learning within the school curriculum that constitutes an institutionally defined field of knowledge and practice for teaching and learning. School subjects can be traditional academic subjects, such as mathematics, history, geography, physics, chemistry and economics. Newly there are some unconventional school subjects like tourism and hospitality. Academic school subjects, such as mathematics, chemistry, geography, history, and economics, are to be compulsorily taught to the students. The content of these academic subjects need to be worked with and transformed by the teachers in such a way that it is appropriate for classroom teaching. Constructing a school subject involves the selection and arrangement of content of knowledge, skills and the transformation of that content for school and classroom use. Constructing a school subject is in accordance with respect to both the societal expectations and the activities of teaching. Thus, a school subject is the result of institutional selection, organization, and framing content for social, economic, cultural, curricular and pedagogic purposes. A school subject constitutes an organizing framework that gives meaning and shape to curriculum content, teaching, and learning activities. School subjects are distinctive, purpose-built enterprises, constructed in response to different social, cultural, and political demands and challenges, and towards educational aims. Thus a school subject contains content, and translating content for educational purposes.

Academic disciplines:

The term 'discipline' originates from the Latin words *discipulus*, which means pupil, and *disciplina*, which means teaching (noun). Academic discipline is a field or branch of learning affiliated with an academic department of a university, formulated for the advancement of research and scholarship. Academic discipline is formulated for the professional training of researchers, academics and specialists. An academic discipline or 'field of study' is a branch of knowledge that is taught and researched as part of higher education. Examples for academic disciplines are anthropology, space science, psychology, sociology, archaeology, education etc.

Academic disciplines – Definitions

"An academic discipline or field of study is a branch of knowledge that is taught and researched as part of higher education". - Anthony Biglan. "Academic discipline is a field or branch of learning affiliated with an academic department of a university, formulated for the advancement

of research and scholarship. It is formulated for the professional training of researchers, academics and specialists."- Deng, Z (2013). An academic discipline is a branch of learning or scholarly investigation that provides a structure for the students' (program of study,) especially in the graduate and post-graduate levels. "A branch of knowledge or learning which is taught or researched at the college or university level." -Glosbe

School Subjects-Definition

A school subject constitutes an organizing framework that gives meaning and shape to curriculum content, teaching, and learning activities (Karmon, 2007). School Subject is defined as an "area of knowledge that is studied in school".-Britannica Encyclopaedia. "A school subject is an area of learning within the school curriculum that constitutes an institutionally defined field of knowledge and practice for teaching and learning."- Deng, Z (2013). School subjects are human constructions in response to social, economic, cultural, political, and educational realities and needs. They are "uniquely purpose built educational enterprises, designed with and through educational imagination towards educative ends".

School subjects and academic disciplines – differences

School subjects can be traditional academic subjects, such as mathematics, history, geography, chemistry and economics that have direct relation with their parent academic disciplines. Some unconventional school subjects like tourism and hospitality have minimal connections with academic disciplines. A school subject constitutes an organizing framework that gives meaning and shape to curriculum content, teaching, and learning activities. School subjects are distinctive, purpose-built enterprises, constructed in response to different social, cultural, and political demands and challenges, and towards educational aims. The formation of a school subject entails a theory of content - a special way of selecting, framing, and translating content for educational purposes. Academic discipline is a field or branch of learning affiliated with an academic department of a university, formulated for the advancement of research and scholarship. Academic discipline is formulated for the professional training of researchers, academics and specialists. A fundamental conceptual distinction between school subjects and academic disciplines is crucial for a proper understanding of curriculum development and pedagogical practice. The distinction between school subjects and academic disciplines has not received sufficient attention

from policymakers, researchers, and educators. School subjects are the parts of academic disciplines.

Classification of disciplines:

A discipline may have branches, and these are often called sub-disciplines. . However, there exist no formal criteria for defining an academic discipline and there is no consensus on how some academic disciplines should be classified (e.g., whether anthropology and linguistics are disciplines of social sciences or fields within the humanities). More generally, the proper criteria for organizing knowledge into disciplines are also open to debate. But here are some basic disciplines given below:

1. Humanities:

The humanities are academic disciplines that study human culture. The humanities use methods that are primarily critical, or speculative, and have a significant historical element—as distinguished from the mainly empirical approaches of the natural sciences. The humanities include ancient and modern languages, literature, philosophy, religion, international relations, and musicology. Areas that are sometimes regarded as social sciences and sometimes as humanities include history, archaeology, anthropology, area studies, communication studies, classical studies, law, semiotics and linguistics.

Fig.1: showing branches of humanities



Scholars in the humanities are “humanities scholars” or *humanists*. The term “humanist” also describes the philosophical position of humanism, which some “anti-humanist” scholars in the humanities refuse. The Renaissance scholars and artists were also called humanists. Some secondary schools offer humanities classes [almost across all modern legal systems], usually consisting of English literature, global studies, and art. Human disciplines like history and cultural anthropology study subject matters that the experimental method does not apply to—and instead mainly use the comparative method and comparative research.

2. Social sciences:

Social science is a major category of academic disciplines, concerned with society and the relationships among individuals within a society. It in turn has many branches, each of which is considered a “social science”. The main social sciences include economics, political science, human geography, demography and sociology. In a wider sense, social science also includes among its branches some fields in the humanities such as anthropology, archaeology, history, law and linguistics.

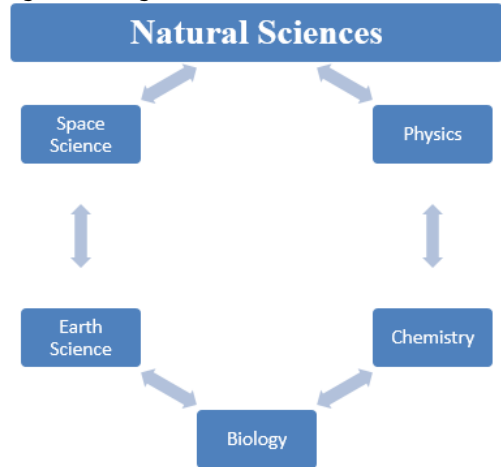
Fig.2: showing branches of social sciences



3. Natural sciences:

Natural science is a branch of science concerned with the description, prediction, and understanding of natural phenomena, based on observational and empirical evidence. Validity, accuracy, and social mechanisms ensuring quality control, such as peer review and repeatability of findings, are amongst the criteria and methods used for this purpose. Natural science can be broken into two main branches: life science (or biological science) and physical science. Physical science is further broken down into branches, including physics, astronomy, chemistry, and Earth science. All of these branches of natural science are divided into many further specialized branches (also known as fields), and each of these is known as a “natural science”.

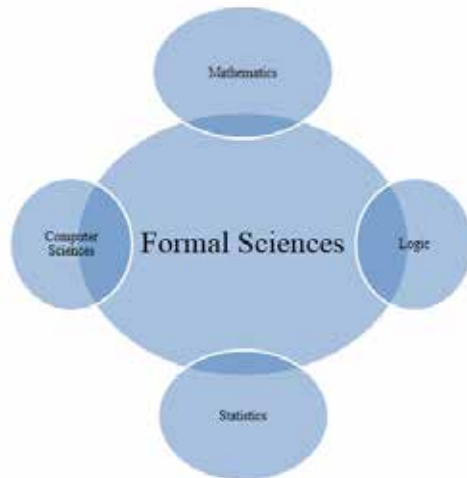
Fig.3: showing branches of natural sciences



4. Formal sciences:

Formal sciences are disciplines concerned with formal systems, such as logic, mathematics, statistics, theoretical computer science, information theory, game theory, systems theory, decision theory, and portions of linguistics and economics. Whereas the natural sciences seek to characterize physical systems, the formal sciences are concerned with characterizing abstract structures described by sign systems. The formal sciences aid the natural sciences by providing information about the structures the latter use to describe the world, and what inferences may be made about them.

Fig.4: showing branches of formal sciences



5. Profession:

Profession is a vocation founded upon specialised educational training, the purpose of which is to supply disinterested objective counsel and service to others, for a direct and definite compensation, wholly apart from expectation of other business gain.

Fig.1: showing branches of professions



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