



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Education

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH: NEED OF THE HOUR

KEY WORDS:

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INTRODUCTION

Interdisciplinary means between two or more disciplines. Today we have so many social problems that their solution is not possible by one discipline so interaction between different disciplines is needed to solve this problem. This interaction between two or more disciplines is called interdisciplinary approach. Interdisciplinary approach combines expertise of two or more disciplines to jointly address an area of common concern. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students can make connections between disciplines in education and see the correlation, which improves overall learning. As a result, students receive a more relevant, timely, less fragmented, and enriching learning experience.

Education is a process of human development as well as an independent field of study or discipline. Most of the content of education is the result of interdisciplinary approach. Some fundamental questions related to education can be best answered by other disciplines which are as follows.

1. Why to teach?
2. How to teach? and
3. What to teach?

The questions, why to teach? can be answered by a philosopher. The philosophy deals the reality of life as well ideals of life. The question How to teach? is related to practical side of education. The psychology and pedagogy can answer this question and provides methods and techniques of teaching. The question what to teach? is related to the content of education and it can be answered by philosophy and sociology. Interdisciplinary approach can be of great help in answering these questions. These disciplines are also considered foundations of education.

A discipline is generally accepted sense of the word which means a field of study which has a well defined content and a technique of its own along with a unique system of values. The present paper focuses that interdisciplinary approach is the need of the hour.

Characteristics of a Discipline

Every discipline has the following characteristics:

- (1) Every discipline has its own content or subject-matter.
- (2) Every discipline is related to some professional and social activity.
- (3) Every discipline has its own method of study.
- (4) Each discipline has its own field of study.
- (5) Each discipline has its own method of investigation.
- (6) Every discipline has unique ideas and horizons.

Education as Discipline in Edifice of Human Knowledge

To consider education as a free discipline it is important that it should have all the qualities for human knowledge. These criteria are as follows:

(i) Preservation of human knowledge–

The preservation of content of each discipline is being done in the social and institutional libraries. In each type of library, we have separate section of Educational books, Journals, Encyclopedia etc.

(ii) Transmission of human knowledge –

The transmission of content of each discipline is being done in the

schools, colleges and universities. There are B.Ed., M.Ed and M.Phil, classes for teaching Education contents.

(iii) Advancement of human knowledge–

In every discipline, content is not only preserved and transmitted but also enriched or advanced through research work. The research works are being done in education at individual level for Ph.D degree. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) are the organizations at national level to conduct research work and also provide financial help for research projects.

Education is a full-fledged discipline of human knowledge. Education content mainly includes: educational psychology, educational philosophy and educational sociology etc. Thus, education has borrowed the content from other disciplines like philosophy, sociology and psychology etc. Education also refers to a teacher education programme in which teachers are trained for teaching activities. The content of education is being enriched through interdisciplinary approach. Diagram 1 shows disciplines (philosophy, sociology and psychology) which are foundations of education.

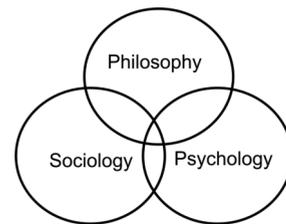
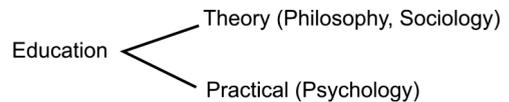
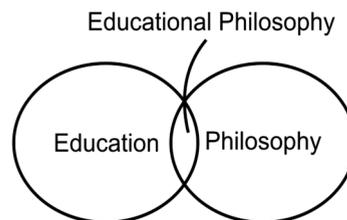


Diagram 1 : Disciplines which are Foundation of Education

In today's era of globalization education is related to many disciplines like philosophy, sociology and psychology. Education is a social process which has two aspects: theoretical (Philosophy, Sociology and Practical (Psychology).



Examples of Interdisciplinary Approach



Educational Philosophy : Diagram 2

Educational philosophy is that branch of philosophy in which the forms of man and his education are analysed on the basis of different schools of philosophy and the philosophical solutions of

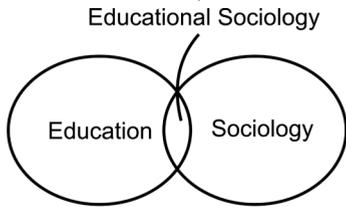
the problems related to his education are found out. Educational Philosophy is the production of joint efforts of philosophy and educational discipline (diagram 2).

Educational Philosophy = Education + Philosophy

It is an interdiscipline which is inclined towards the discovery of philosophical solutions of educational problems. It undertakes thinking on the basis of different philosophical thoughts regarding any educational problem and on its basis presents different solutions.

Educational Sociology

Educational sociology is the application of general principles and findings of sociology to the administration and/or process of education. This approach attempts to apply principles of sociology to the institutions of education as a separate social unit (Diagram 3).

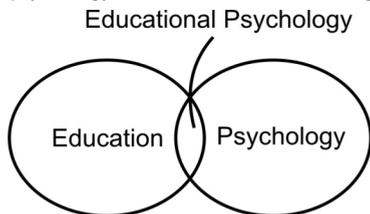


Educational Sociology : Diagram 3

Educational Sociology = Education + Sociology

Educational Psychology

Educational Psychology is comprised of two words "education" and "psychology". Psychology is the science of behaviour and experience and education is the modification of behaviour. Educational psychology is the application of the findings and theories of psychology in the field of education (Diagram 4).



Educational Psychology : Diagram 4

Educational Psychology = Education + Psychology

Problems studied through Interdisciplinary Approach

Some of the educational problems studied through interdisciplinary approach are:

1. Why social values are not developing among children of working parents?
2. Why young generation is living their parental profession?
3. How education is influencing culture (arts, morals, beliefs, customs, traditions, etc.) of a community or a group?

Advantages of Interdisciplinary Approach

When two or more disciplines are used to solve any educational problems then the findings/results are better. Interdisciplinary approach has the following advantages (figure 1).

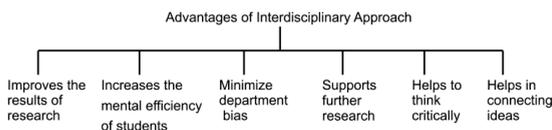


Figure 1 : Advantages of Interdisciplinary Approach

CONCLUSION

In Interdisciplinary Approach two or more disciplines are used to solve any educational problem. for eg. educational philosophy, educational psychology and educational sociology etc. Interdisciplinary approach combines expertise of two or more disciplines to jointly address an area of common concern. It

improves the results of research; increases the mental efficiency of students; minimize department bias; supports further research; helps to think critically and helps in connecting ideas.

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