

CASE STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN DESIGNING OF CONTEXT BASED CURRICULUM

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ABSTRACT

The paper in the form of a case study would throw light on various challenges and opportunities in the designing of a context based curriculum. The case would discuss the issues pertaining to context based curriculum in an Omani environment with reference to the Colleges of Technology in general and Ibra College of Technology in particular. The insights drawn from academicians, academic administrators, students would provide a bird's eye view regarding the planning and implementation of context based curriculum. Periodical evolution of curriculum development in the Colleges of Technology, leading to the emergence of the context based curriculum would bring to the fore transformations that have led to the current status of this concept vis-à-vis the teaching-learning environment. The case would lend credence to the aforesaid factors on the basis of secondary data, interviews and some primary data gathered from key stakeholders involved with the ideation, planning and implementation of the context based curriculum.

Aims/Objectives of the Study

The study would have the following Aims/Objectives

- To understand the challenges and opportunities while designing, planning and implementing context based curriculum with reference to the Colleges of Technology.
- To understand the perspective of various stakeholders and related to context based curriculum.
- To understand the benefits offered by context based curriculum towards the teaching-learning environment of the Colleges of Technology.

Rationale/Importance of the Study

The study would provide first hand insights pertaining to the challenges and opportunities of designing context based curriculum for Higher Education in the Sultanate of Oman. The paper would bring to the fore the perspectives of academicians, academic administrators and students while designing a context based curriculum that, in turn would provide solutions to many of the issues grappling with Higher Education institutes (HEI).

Research Setting

The research setting for the study would include the physical, social and cultural aspects related to the students, teachers, infrastructure, society, employers and academic administrators of Ibra College of Technology.

Findings and its Relevance

The study would decipher the challenges and opportunities in shaping up and implementing context based curriculum especially with regards to a Higher Educational set-up similar to that of the Colleges of Technology in the Sultanate of Oman. The findings would have high relevance not only for the aforesaid institutions, but can also provide solutions to many of the issues being faced by other Higher Education Institutes (HEI) in the Sultanate of Oman.

Contributions to Theoretical Knowledge and Professional Practice

The study would add substantial value to the theoretical literature available on the designing of context based curriculum. However, what would made the contributions different from any other findings revealed earlier, is the presentation of the challenges and opportunity in the form of a case study, particular to an HEI set-up, that too in particular to the Omani context. The findings would contribute towards the professional practices of the curriculum designer and implementer as the thought provoking questions after the case study would lead to many solutions that can be customized and used in diverse settings.

KEYWORDS: Context Based Curriculum, Higher Education, Colleges of Technology