

Curriculum Ideologies

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, learners should be able to:-



Match the four curriculum ideologies with their definitions/key elements



Select an ideology that you believe is most suitable for constructing curriculum in our current society



Explain why you believe this



Overview



What is curriculum?



What is ideology?



The four ideologies: scholar academic, social efficiency, learner-centered and social reconstructionist



Quiz



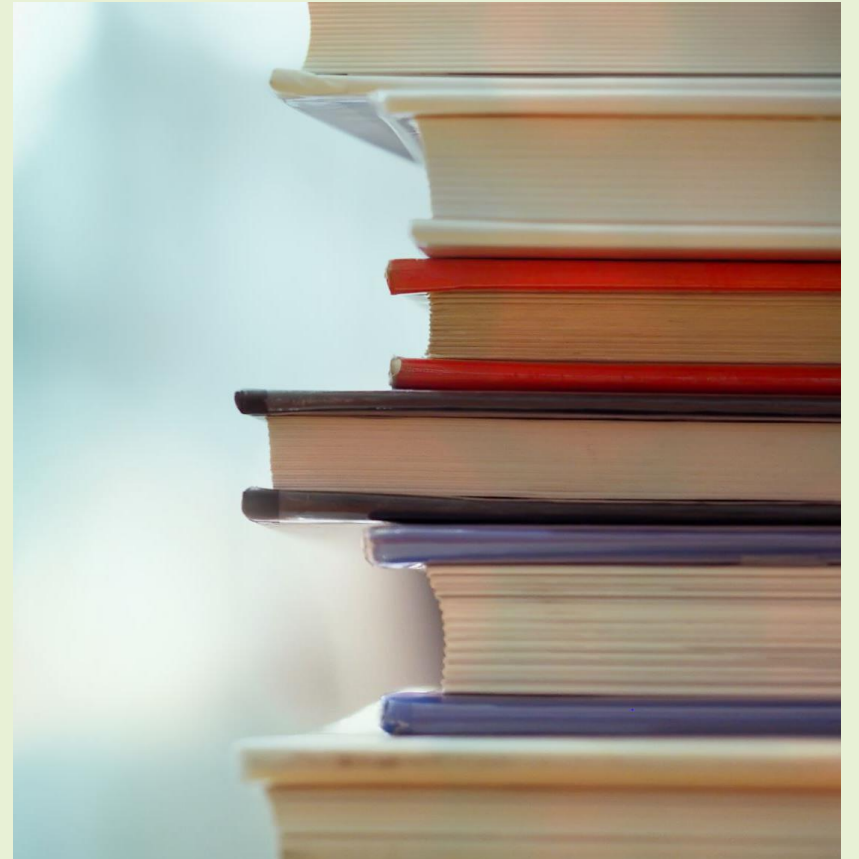
References

What is curriculum?

Understood/approached in many ways over time by different people situated in different contexts (Jung and Pinar, 2016)

Some definitions:

- “...all the learning experiences planned and directed by the school to attain its educational goals” (Tyler, 1957, cited in Jung and Pinar, 2016, p.33)
- “...a plan or program for all experiences which the learner encounters under the direction of the school” (Oliva, 1982, cited in Jung and Pinar, 2016, p.33)





What is Ideology?

A set of ideas, beliefs and ways of looking at things
How the world, and aspects of our social life, should
function

Example - political ideologies: conservatism,
communism, socialism etc.

Four Ideologies



Scholar
Academic



Social Efficiency



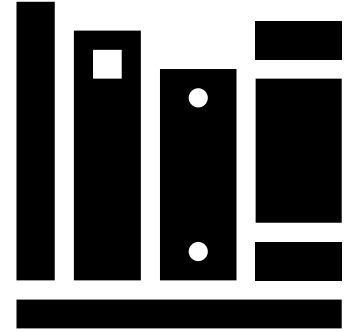
Learner-centered



Social
Reconstructionist

Distinct views on the purpose of education, what knowledge should be taught (and how), the nature of the child etc. (Schiro, 2013)

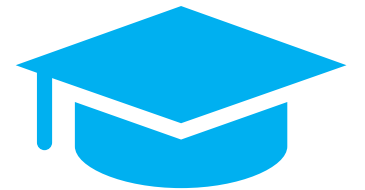
The Scholar Academic Ideology

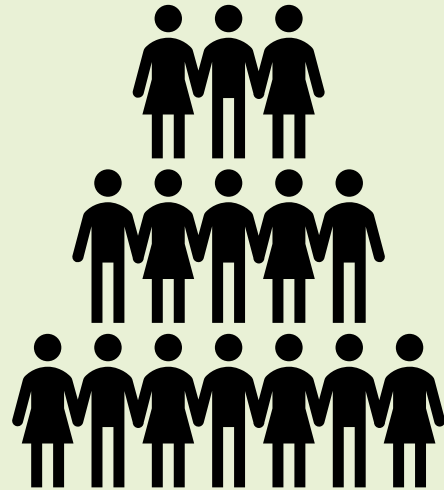


- Primary concern: the **content** of the curriculum
- Important knowledge from our culture is passed down through **academic disciplines**
- Purpose of education: to create culturally literate individuals, extend academic disciplines
- **Children: passive**, knowledge from disciplines **transmitted to them**
- Teachers: **authority figures, transmitters of knowledge and mini-scholars**



(Schiro 2013)





The Social Efficiency Ideology

- Primary concern: **needs of the society**
- **Purpose of education:** prepare for adulthood, work, contribute to the home etc.
- **Behaviourist** approach, learning involves a change in behaviours
- Children: **potential workers/functioning society members** – “raw materials to be shaped into finished products that will possess well developed behavioural capabilities” (Schiro, 2013, p.247)
- Teachers: **Controls/manages classroom**, push for favorable outcomes
(Schiro, 2013)

The Learner-centered Ideology



- Primary concern: the **needs and interest of the child**
- Purpose of education: learners' **holistic growth** and development, enabling meaning making
- Children: **active** in the learning process, learning through their **experiences** - “Self activated maker of meaning” (Schiro, 2013, p.225)
 - Teachers: **facilitators**, directs and assists

(Schiro, 2013)

The Social Reconstructionist Ideology

- Primary concern: creating **a fair world, addressing social injustice, encouraging tolerance**
- Issues including sexism, racism, poverty, pollution need to be addressed
- Purpose of education: create free thinking individuals who can **challenge social norms** etc.
- Children: **active** in the learning process - "...maturing members of society" who can bring about change (Schiro, 2013, p.225).
- Teachers: **acting as a colleague, leads a change**

(Schiro, 2013)



Quiz

Using the handout provided, draw a line matching each curriculum ideology to the correct definitions/key elements

Select an ideology that you believe is most suitable for constructing curriculum in our current society and then explain why you believe this



References

- Jung, J. and Pinar, W.F. (2016) 'Conceptions of Curriculum', in Wyse, D., Hayward, L. and Pandya, J. (eds) *The SAGE Handbook of Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment: Two Volume Set*. London: Sage, pp. 29–45.
- Schiro, M.S. (2013). *Curriculum Theory: Conflicting Visions and Enduring Concerns*. 2nd ed. London: Sage.
- Cambridge Dictionary. (2024). *Ideology: Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary*. Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ideology> (Accessed 16 September 2024).