Role of Co-Curricular Activities in a Student's Life

Dr. Vishal R. Bapodara
Asst. Teacher
Khera-1 Pri. School
Ta-Rajula, Dis-Amreli, Gujarat.

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ABSTRACT
Activities which complement but are not part of the conventional academic curriculum. It means that Co-curricular activities are those activities which fall outside the regular academic curriculum yet they are a part of schooling or collegiate life. These are observed in tandem with an institute’s curriculum and have a yearly schedule. Most of the educational organizations in various different parts of the world facilitate these activities for school and college students. Faculty is mostly involved in organizing and directing these activities in schools while it may be independent from faculty in universities or colleges. Co-curricular activities exist at all levels of education, from primary school, high school, college and university education. These activities are compulsory in some institutions while in others it's voluntary. Where these are compulsory all school students must participate in these alongside the standard study curriculum. These are held outside standard curriculum hours and the activities undertaken depend on the nature of the institute and occasion.

Key words: Co-Curricular Activities, Extra-Curricular Activities, Role of CCA.

INTRODUCTION:
Today these activities have become more profound than ever before. Most of the institutes highlight them as a crucial advertising factor in their prospectus or advertisements in order to attract parent-students attention. Though not all of these activities may pursued with great enthusiasm these are however popular and leave a life-long lasting experience for most. These activities are not examined in the same way that the academic curriculum is, and because most of them take place outside lessons, such activities have less status in education than the main curriculum. However, they are often held to be very important to the wider education of young men and women. Co-curricular activities form the core of students' life. Many schools and colleges have different units like clubs or houses in which all the students have been divided into four houses. Each house has a house Master & staff of the school to guide the students for various internal competitions.

Types of Co-Curricular Activities

- Morning assembly programs
- Inter-House competitions
- House meetings
- English recitation
- Hindi calligraphy
- English calligraphy
- On the spot drawing & painting competition
- Group singing
- Hindi elocution
- English elocution
- Solo singing/rhymes
- Quiz competitions
- Moot courts
- Rangoli competitions
- Individual talent show
- Guest talk / slide show
- Fancy dress
- Antakshari
- Various activity clubs
- NCC - National Cadet Corps
- School band
- Scout association
- Girl guides
- Performing arts
- School choirs
- Foot drills
- Annual functions
- National sporting competitions
- Youth festivals
- NSS

Difference between Co-curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities
Co-curricular activities are also referred as 'Extra-curricular' activities. Grammatically speaking there is a difference between the two. Extra-curricular is self-explanatory, i.e. Activity which is extra or additional to curricular but is more leisure oriented than learning oriented. Extra-curricular activities are mostly conducted after school hours. They generally don't complement academic studies. However, some of the activities overlap each other; some extra-curricular activities can also be co-curricular and vice versa.
Depending upon the institutes certain activities are considered co-curricular while for some it is extra-curricular. Therefore, in academic sphere, there isn’t any clear consensus as to which is what? Thus, the gap between the two is negligible in academic sense.

**Role of Co-Curricular Activities in a Student's Life**

- It helps to develop the all-round personality of the students to face the undaunted task and turbulent world of future. Experience and accolades gained through many of these activities help during internships and other school sponsored work programs.

- The aim of curricular activities is to make the students fit for the future time and to develop a sense of competitive spirit, co-operation, leadership, diligence, punctuality, team spirit as well as to provide a backdrop for the development of their creative talents. Whenever someone is chosen as a head boy or is given leadership in certain matters, it boosts self-confidence and sense of achievement.

- Additional activities for school students are a means to enhance social interaction, leadership, healthy recreation, self-discipline and self-confidence. Competitions may also be organized to create a competitive environment and groups with an objective to work towards a better society and the world as well.

- In today's competitive world, percentage makes a lot of difference during admission into various courses. Such students are given preference as compared to nonparticipants. These may make a difference when the students are considered for the most popular courses.

- Some tasks require precision, management and organizational and such activities provide training to prepare students for the outside world.

- Students in the form of Alumni etc., act as counselors or guides in their respective institutions in such matters. They impart what they have learned to their juniors. Whilst doing so they are imparting knowledge and helping in the development of a productive society.

- Such activities divert student’s attention from harmful activities like drugs, crime etc. It channelizes their energies in fruitful activities.

- Physical activities like running, football etc. help not only in the physical fitness they also refresh the burdened mind.

- Success in organizations requires more than high intellect. Thus, college recruiters commonly examine job candidate's Co-curricular activities in search of well-rounded, emotionally intelligent, and interpersonally skilled students. Intuitively, Co-curricular activities are like valuable student experiences.

**CONCLUSION**

These activities are really important as they have a potential of developing the intellect of a student which is always not possible with theoretic procedures. For this co-curricular activities need to be effective so that they can give the right exposure to the mind. When effective these activities provide a practical hands-on approach to the students which provide similar experiences which they will face in the outside world. Such experiences go a long way in producing multi-faceted personalities which, in due course of time may bring honor to the country as well. Students have a right to a broad education. A wide range of experiences prepare students better for the future, especially in today’s uncertain world. Broad education can provide better preparation for life in a society where an individual may need to change career several times in their life. Student minds aren't mature enough to ascertain what's good and what’s bad for them? Their decisions may be influenced by peer pressure etc. but at the same time these activities should not be forced. Co-curricular activities need to be more refined, varied and interesting so as to be widely accepted and successful. A successful co-curriculum builds links between the school and the wider community, bringing local enthusiasts in to work with students, and sending students out to work on community projects. Many children have talents in all sorts of different areas, and it is wrong to force them to specialize too early. A career is not the only part of an adult’s life – school needs to make sure they have interests and skills that will help them in their family and leisure lives too. Through equal balancing of academic and co-curriculum, the students have the chance to exercise their rights and the opportunity to be multi-talented.

**REFERENCES**