

Review Article**Application of Career Education in National Curriculum of Pakistan at Elementary Level***Ayla Khan,¹ **Abstract**

This article intends to highlight the need and importance of career education in National Curriculum at an elementary Level. A case of Pakistan has been selected for this review. Applicability of career education in national curriculum has been discussed through extensive review of the National Education Policy (Ministry of Education Government of Pakistan, 2009) and career development framework practicing globally. Review has shown that there is need of career education in national curriculum at an elementary level. At the end of the article different strategies are suggested for educationist that require to be embraced in the light of worldwide patterns and national substances.

Keywords: Career, career education, curriculum

1. INTRODUCTION

The education system is strongly influenced by the environment in which that exists. It is considered as one of the main pillars of human and economic development. United Nations International Childrens' Emergency Fund (2000) report mentioned that the quality of education is dependent upon five features: environments, contents, learners, processes and outcomes. Each feature play a major role in modifying the education quality. First it is necessary to become familiar with the term "career" in order to understand the career education concept. Watts (1996) stated that lifelong progress of an individual in learning field is known as career. Likewise, Business dictionary (2015) mentioned that an individual progress within an occupation over the years is termed as a career. Career education is the study of developing skills, attitudes and thinking that enables students to work and live within adult life. It helps students in transition phase from education to field and make ready for work. Wheeler (1978) defined curriculum as deliberate practices given to students under the supervision of school. The main purpose of designing curriculum is to make learner successful and confident so that they can participate in the society affairs and show others how much they are responsible and talented. Curriculum is like blue print that enables learners to concentrate on studies and boosts them to keep moving till the major part of their journey is not over. For a student, everything noticed in the educational modules is of awesome significance and career education is no exemption. Current paper accentuations on the requirement, significance, application and suggestions of career education in Pakistani Curriculum at the elementary level.

1.1. Need and Importance of Career Education

Education play a major role in the development of human beings. Globalization brings individuals and institutions closer to each other with the help of digital technologies and economic dynamics (Khan, 2014). Education play a major role in the development of society. Different countries have added new subjects relevant to international context within their educational policies by

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considering the significance of globalization (Bloom, 2007). Career education is also inspired by the global trends like other discipline since globalization trends encourage societies that they teach their children so they can serve the international economy (Torres, 2002)

It was pointed out by Al' Abari (2011) that the developing countries educational policies are affected by globalization in the similar way as in established countries. Implementation of career education within curriculum varies. First, within the duration of 1970s-1980, emergence and growth of career education was seen in English curriculum. Literature suggest that career development learning framework DOTS model (Law & Watts, 1977) and Super's theory (1957) are the basis of career education. Hooley, Marriott, Watts and Coiffait (2012) confirmed that these frameworks have major input in growth of career education.

Review of the New Zealand educational policy (2009) has shown that career guidance and education are the basic constituents of balance education provided at the school level. It develops motivation in students about decision-making in transition period from school to field work or higher studies. Career education favors students in managing their career pathways and acquiring opportunities in life by understanding career management competencies. School progress in New Zealand has shown the positive impact upon students through introducing the career education strategies within curriculum. Students' motivation level is high as they narrate their prospect with schools (TKI, 2009).

Review of the Pakistan National Educational Policy highlights the fact that career education has been neglected at the primary level and its importance starts from secondary and upper secondary level (Ministry of Education, 2009). It is because of general population and educationists mindsets that consider primary learners too young for career education (Zahid, 2015). In real it is not true and career education has its importance at an elementary level.

Ediger (2000) clarified that it isn't too soon to satisfy one's fantasies in life by taking part in the field work at elementary years. Career education help learners in building up the genuine impression of professions. Magnuson and Starr (2000), declared in paper entitled "How Early is Too Early to Begin Life Career Planning? The Importance of the Elementary School Years", that *"Helping youngsters to accomplish self-satisfaction enormously benefits kids as they create. The later advancement of aptitudes identified with vocation mindfulness, profession investigation, and ability improvement can be amplified through the early improvement of the abilities that will be required for the career related awareness"*

At the time of admission, in secondary school setup, student is supposed to select subject and make their career choices. But this stage is too difficult for the child due to the absence of career education at an elementary level. There is need of guidance for students in making career decision. Though it is harder for a student to change his/her career as he progresses to graduation level. As of now his fundamental wellspring of direction and decision are his evaluations in exams which may be inverse to his bent or wishes. Parent's pressures and compulsions mold his choices. The reality of the matter is that elementary level pupils are extremely youthful to settle on remedy decisions, yet access to data and decision is an essential right.

1.2. Case of Pakistan

UNICEF report mentioned that 35% of the population of Pakistan is below the age of 15. It means that Pakistan has one of the biggest youth bulge upon which the future of Pakistan depends (Shackle, 2013). But if this huge number is not utilized properly then this same strength became a problem for the country. Consequently, it can't be overruled that the administration makes genuine strides towards building up an able human asset which is not just gifted and proficient yet engaged to take educated choices about their profession. This highlights the need of a planned career guidelines for each individual, thus summons the need of a legitimate and well way career education training joined in the arrangement of teaching.

Career education has its importance in the survival of the country because it guides students in making informed career decision which is fruitful for their upcoming years. There are many students who make their choices under parental pressures but face difficulty in pursuing that career in future. Most of the professionals in our society are pursuing their careers without interest or emotional spirit. Many human beings in culture either pass on with their desires in the heart or convey these as past

circumstances at whatever point they get the opportunity. Comparable situation exists inside Pakistan culture: students settled on their career choices based on parental weight which denies their own; flexibility. Rahila Narejo, one of the main human resource expert who writes in Dawn news in the segment "Working environment Sanity" says that profession choices do not depend just on people himself rather it relies upon the entire family inside our general public. A person's profession decision is unequivocally impacted by the Parents, grandparents and more seasoned kin, which absolutely disregard the inclinations and requirements of the person, who really needs to sparkle in a specific picked vocation because of his/her diligent work (Narejo, 2013).

In Pakistan, there are four steps in the education system at pre-graduation phase; primary, elementary, secondary and higher secondary level. There is one basis themed syllabus followed by the education curriculum at primary and elementary level which is appropriate for graduation in any field. However, in Pakistan, proportion of school going youngster is very low. Polar Star (2010) survey report has identified the alarming situation in education system that drop out ratio is 74% which is very high and only 26% students go for higher studies. Lack of timely guidance is one of the main reason of this huge dropout. Farooq (2013) study mentioned that lack of awareness in studies and schools are other sources of dropping out. In this scenario, the need of career education and counselling has amplified significantly, particularly for school and college students. When information regarding career is provided through adding career education in curriculum then it will play major contribution in increasing the student retention.

Shabir (2013) argued that most of the youth in our culture are misfit in their jobs/working conditions. They are compelled to do undesirable jobs on societal and parental pressures. He claims that if an individual is not on his desirable position or job then he cannot deliver best in his life. In these circumstances, if maximum output is required from youth then it is the responsibility of education policy maker, government and owner of private schools to implement career education in curriculum at elementary level.

1.3. Application of Career Education at an Elementary Level:

Career development models and theories are very helpful in the process of implementing career education in the educational programs at elementary level. By taking the help of system theory, career planning can be executed in the complex system of Pakistan. Different systems are practicing in education system of Pakistan such as textbook board, madrasa, O-A level and in like manner schools are additionally partitioned into public and private division which itself a greater test in creating quality training and vocation. Besides discussing the numerous education systems in Pakistan, system theory is also helpful in recommending a legitimate cure of the framework differences (O-A level framework, Matriculation, Madrassas) which is settling an inlet among parts of our general public. Abernathy (2000) mentioned that Parson proposed trait and factor theory (structural approach). According to this approach three factors for example, learning precision, work detail information, and individual capacity to make a legitimate connection between these two play major roles in vacation choice (Parsons, 1909). It means that the higher the congruency between personality and job trait, the greater chances of job success and satisfaction.

The rise of innovative careers at the world implies that career education and guidance are genuinely necessary for a superior concentration and advanced livelihoods. In the existing zone the significance of information communication technology can't be ignored. Because of the creation of ICT instruments and types of gear the field of education is radically progressed. By considering the conditions it is apparent to state that a genuine formal and very much organized profession instruction in Pakistan can't undoubtedly be functionalized. It would require more investment. The educator as a rule plays the part of the career advisor without an organized profession training framework. Be that as it may, they frequently confront issues because of the absence of learning identified with various profession data. In these circumstances the effective ICT coordination and instructive results lie in enhancing the limits of instructors and created sure and duty initiative in schools (Morrissey, 2015).

The use of career education at the rudimentary level will offer benefits not just to the individual but in addition the nation as intellectual elite and the monetary/budgetary advantages. As indicated by Askew (2007) career education programs at the rudimentary level create self-esteem, basic leadership procedures, ability advancement, demeanor improvement, work mindfulness, group mindfulness, school mindfulness, family mindfulness and mindfulness among the learners. Correspondingly, he additionally reports that students get higher evaluations and scholarly accomplishment and because of

the execution of career education, an expansion in vocation mindfulness, investigation and relational aptitudes are considered. The preparatory career education aptitudes strengthened, created and extended the future abilities as understudies advanced (Career Tec, 2000). As indicated by Nasir and Khan (2012) different positive changes like upgraded mindfulness about numerous social and instructive organizations can be normal by presenting the career guidance programs at school settings. It is vital to outline a guidance curriculum which goes about as a foundation of the entire program. Centrality of profession training in rudimentary educational modules can be clarified with the assistance of the Faisal Bari articulation. Bari (2015) illuminates that the students don't have the essential data about vocation decisions that may have been given at essential or possibly auxiliary levels. These understudies can't settle on out from the decisions accessible not to mention making their own one of a kind revelations.

It is surely the considerable need of an hour to survey the education policy and present the reasonable, realistic and all-encompassing approach for career education and guarantee the joining of career knowledge in the educational programs. The curriculum modules updating ought to acquaint and empower students with the ideas of long lasting learning, advancement of relational connections and advance vocation arranging. It ought to create profession related esteems and aptitudes and definition of vocation objectives. The points and destinations of profession instruction in our national educational policy can be planned by utilizing the DOTS FRAMEWORK given by Law and Watts (1977) preceding usage. It can be useful to comprehend and distinguish vocation instruction needs at the basic level. It will additionally help the educationists to build up an institutionalized career education programs for schools. DOTS framework comprises of basic leadership, opportunity mindfulness, change learning and mindfulness. The short and brief focuses are examined to comprehend the utilization of the framework.

- Self-mindfulness recognizes and audit individual qualities, interests, values and favored ways of life inside the setting of school, family and group
- Opportunity awareness depicts the aptitudes, characteristics and manners that are a piece of employability and furthermore give assistance in sorting survey data and wellsprings of data on career through ICT, paper and individuals sources.
- Decision making portrays the commitment of direction administrations to profession basic leadership and suspect future choice focuses.
- Transition learning gives assistance to assess the aptitudes, capacities expected to make fruitful changes into and inside instruction, preparing and work

However, considering the general financial states of Pakistan which still require to be enhanced, it is hard to join monstrous and isolate educational programs of career education from the earliest starting education level. Along these lines, an all-around coordinated type of vocation training inside educational modules may be more adequate as opposed to give by a different subject, particularly at primary level (Zahid, 2015).

1.4. Recommendations:

There are following suggestions for educationist and policy makers to incorporate the career education in Pakistani curriculum at elementary level by keeping in view the global trends and national realities.

1. Need investigation build up the significance of career as well as underline on the conveyance of career education that ought to be fundamental once every week at the elementary level
2. Provide awareness about self and others to students. Create multiple opportunities in order to develop social understanding and engage them with different people
3. Create atmosphere in classroom for complex learning, begin to provide first-hand experience to students and raise inquiring spirit within children
4. There is need of refreshing educational programs at elementary level. Field walks and experience sharing activities will be incorporated into which students are presented to different alternatives accessible at household and countrywide level
5. Accompany career exploration and career awareness experiences with open doors for learners to show their convictions about themselves in connection to the different professions.

To conclude, government alone cannot bring reforms regarding career education, but is also the responsibility of public-private institutions to move forward and to push ahead and haul out most of the nation's populace from literacy. Now it is time to make fruitful changes in the education field as the world is growing fast. There is demand and respect of educated human resource in world market. If we want to see our youth as successful and utilizing their best capabilities then there is need to know their interests and aptitude and place them in their desire positions. This activity is not possible without adding the career education in the curriculum.

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