

NEP 2020

Learning Outcomes and Competencies

Learning outcomes are statements that describe the knowledge, skills and attitudes, students should acquire by the end of a particular assignment, class, course, or program, and help students understand why that knowledge and those skills will be useful to them. The combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values form the competencies that are expected to be developed in everyone. They focus on the context and potential applications of knowledge and skills, help students connect learning in various contexts, and help guide assessment and evaluation. In competency-based education, teaching and learning focuses on acquiring these basic competencies which can be measured through learning Outcomes.

Importance of Competency Based Learning a. Unique Experiences of Children:

Children come to school from different backgrounds and contexts-some children have parents and adults in the family who engage with them-play, tell stories, provide interactive language experiences, provide safety, connections, and high-quality routines, which are enriching and interesting for children. On the other hand, there are children who have experienced less engaging and enriching early childhood years, without secure attachments, safety and connection, good nutrition, and rest, and without enriched learning opportunities. As a result, children have differences in readiness for school when they begin preschool or kindergarten. Additionally, children in the same class might have a 12-month age difference. There are differences in the levels of language skills, visual-motor skills, and social readiness. Children having varied levels of oral language development, second language learners, diversity in home atmosphere may result in different types of learners having different learning need.

Competency Based Learning.

When children from diverse backgrounds having different learning, needs enter the formal school, all of them are expected to be ready for grade-level content to be covered and tested in a time-limited learning system. In many schools in India, children are offered non-responsive instruction which does not serve their learning needs, but focus is on completing the syllabus without monitoring what children are learning. One-size-fits-all instruction and testing quickly classifies children into

winner and loser. By the end of third grade, children have settled into patterns of learning that usually persist for life.

An alternative to the traditional learning system is the competency-based learning.

Competency based learning is focused on student learning outcomes, and is characterized by the following:

- Explicit and measurable learning outcomes are defined which are the pathways for competency acquisition.

- The pedagogy is based on activities, experiences, integration of arts/sports/technology, etc. and connecting the learnings to real-life situations, so that child learns to apply knowledge.

- Children advance to the next level of learning outcomes only upon achieving certain level of proficiency at the current level .

- Primarily formative assessment is used, and skills or concepts are assessed in multiple contexts to ensure that both deep understanding and applications are acquired by children.

In the competency model, instruction is designed to match the developmental readiness of the students. Students are given instruction at their personal level of readiness for as long as necessary to achieve desired competency. Moving to the next level is not determined by time or age but by the mastery of the competency. This can be different for different competencies/subject areas. With such flexibility, students fall in love with learning and become successful learners. For higher rate of success, instructions should be provided at a level that is challenging for children.

c. Assessments in Competency Based Learning: Formative assessments are emphasized so that teachers get to understand where students are facing difficulties, having misconceptions so that they can be extended help and are given feedback about their performance and where they need to improve. Assessment is used as a guiding tool, which is meaningful and provide positive learning experiences for children. Students construct their own knowledge by actively participating, applying critical-thinking and problem-solving skills along with good communication skills, collaboration, and cultural responsiveness to help them work in ever-changing, diverse environments.