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Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning

FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2ND SEMESTER 2020

ASSIGNMENT 1

INTRODUCTION TO CURRICULUM STUDIES

(ICS620S)



Dear Students

This feedback tutorial letter serves as feedback to Assignment 1.

Assignment 1 covered Unit 1 and Unit 2 in your Study Guide.

This assignment covered the following learning outcomes:

- Explain why approaches are used to define curriculum
- Explain the different approaches used to define curriculum
- Discuss the approach used to define TVET curriculum in Namibia
- Discuss the relation between the approach to TVET curriculum and the developmental plans for TVET in Namibia
- Explain the different types of curriculum
- Discuss the different types of TVET curriculum used in Namibia
- Explain the role philosophy plays in curriculum design
- Explain the different educational philosophies that inform curriculum design
- Discuss the relationship between the philosophy that informs the TVET curriculum in Namibia and your own educational philosophy

QUESTION:

Philosophy impacts all aspects of curriculum design, development and implementation. Thus your personal philosophy of curriculum will influence all your decisions related to curriculum design, development and implementation.

Namibia is working towards becoming a developed country by 2030. In line with achieving this vision, the country is guided by the National Strategic Plan 5 (NDP5).

Based on the statements above and the readings in Unit 1 and 2, prepare a proposal to the CEO of Namibia Training Authority (NTA) which clearly outlines the link between educational philosophy and achievement of National Development Goals-5 (NDP5) of Namibia, the educational philosophy that Namibia has adopted for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and its suitability to achieve the NDP5 goals related to TVET. Conclude your proposal with recommendations on what the current educational philosophy should incorporate to achieve the TVET NDP5 goals.



Your proposal is guided by the following headings and subheadings:

1. The link between educational philosophy and achievement of the National Development Goals-5 (NDP5)
2. The educational philosophy that Namibia has adopted for TVET
3. The suitability of this philosophy to achieve the NDP5 goals related to TVET
4. Recommendations on what the current educational philosophy should incorporate to achieve the TVET NDP5 goals

The above points should be the main themes of discussion in this assignment, covering up to 80 % of the assessment grade and the remaining 20 % will be awarded for language and structure.

The format for writing your proposal:

1. Cover page that will include all details such as your Name and Surname, to whom the proposal is submitted to and the date of submission.
 - An ideal cover page should indicate the core of the proposal and what you are proposing, therefore should indicate an appropriate title.
 2. Table of contents that will show how you have structured your proposal
 - The Table of Content should not just show how you have structured the proposal but also give an indication of suggestions and what should be done to achieve the NDP5 goals. State the purpose of the proposal. Do this clearly and concisely so that the reader knows immediately why you are writing
 3. Background information. Explain why you are proposing your suggestion so that the reader has a better understanding of the problem.
- The introduction and background information should not just state the problem but also indicate the importance of adopting an appropriate educational philosophy that will also help Namibia in achieving the NDP5 goals. It can be argued that philosophy provides the framework for *organising learning institutions and classrooms, determining what learning institutions are for, what subjects have value, how students learn, and what methods and materials to use, for clarifying education's goals, suitable content, teaching and learning processes, and the experiences and activities that learning institutions should emphasise and for deciding which*



textbooks to use, how much homework to assign, how to test students and how to use the test results and what courses or subject matter to emphasise

It is thus clear that Philosophy will determine the purpose of TVET in Namibia, the trades and subjects offered in the TVET institutions in Namibia, the teaching and learning strategies used in the TVET institutions, and the type of assessment methods followed in TVET institutions, the role of the trainer and the trainees in the TVET institutions.

What educational philosophy does Namibia have? Namibia incorporates the perennialism and essentialism educational philosophy for their TVET curriculum. What is your educational philosophy and how does it differ from Namibia's educational philosophy? Identify the gaps and indicate this in this part of the proposal.

4. Conclusion and recommendations. Sum up the main points within the proposal. The recommendations that you make should have been referred to in the proposal. Make sure that no new points are mentioned in this part of the proposal.

Below are some recommendations that you can include in the proposal. These recommendations are derived from the problem statement and the situational analysis:

1. To increase the number of qualified VET trainers from 15,000 in 2015 to 25,000 by 2020;
2. To improve the quality of VET;
3. To improve the image of VET nationwide;
4. Speed up VET refunds to private sector who train their employees.

Proposed strategies and actions to attain NDP5, Harambe and other national development plans:

To ensure that the goal of vocational skills development is achieved, the following strategies and actions were suggested:

→ **Vocational Education Training Expansion:** Under VET expansion we will in 2016 develop a VET expansion master plan to have a footprint of Vocational Skills Development Centres in all 14 regions. Following on a pre-feasibility study that was carried out in 2015/16, the fully fledged feasibility study will be ready before September 2016. In the same year, we will refurbish an existing building in the Kunene region for use as a VTC. In year two and three of Harambee we will construct new centres in Nkurenuru and in Omuthiya.



→ **Recognition of prior learning:** We will roll out the recognition of prior learning services nationally to certify skills of citizens acquired through work experience in the informal sector. Our immediate target is to have 2,000 candidates certified in year one of Harambee.

→ **Improve quality of VET provision:** To improve the quality of VET provision we: will train 200 instructors/ trainers, that will also undergo compulsory industry attachments; we will develop in 2017 a national policy for VET practitioners, including assessors, moderators, verifiers and instructional designers; and we will enter into bilateral agreements to source trainers from Cuba, Germany and Spain.

→ **Improve the image of VET:** We will adopt technical and vocational education and training [TVET] as the standardized international training convention. We will rename VTCs as technical and vocational training colleges by 2017 and we will stage a national vocational education and training skills competition biannually to promote VET as a subsector of choice.

→ **Apprenticeship and funding:** We will initiate more apprenticeship opportunities for VET graduates, with the first apprenticeship programme scheduled to roll out in 2016. In addition, graduates with good business propositions will be assisted to the extent that it is feasible to start their own businesses

It was therefore important to do research to find out if the above was deployed and implemented. If not, you should have made recommendations in the proposal to the NTA.

Below is a rubric indicating how the proposal was marked. The core themes are also indicated in the rubric.

	Poor	Good	Excellent	Total
Criteria	0-4	5-7	8-10	
Link between educational philosophy and NDP5 goals are				



well argued and articulated with examples.				
Argues the suitability of the chosen educational philosophy critically with examples.				
Recommendations are clearly linked to the arguments presented and will when implemented allow Namibia to achieve its national development goals.				
There are no spelling and grammar mistakes.				
Format of proposal is correctly followed with correct in-text citations and full references provided.				
Total:				/50=

Overall Performance:

Most of you performed well with very good proposals. I have enjoyed the readings and obviously the marking too. I am sure that by now you are busy preparing for Assignment 2. Assignment 2 covers Unit 5 and Unit 6.

It covers the covers the following learning outcomes:

- *discuss* the different curriculum development models
- *discuss* the enactment of the curriculum development process
- *discuss* the curriculum development model used for TVET in Namibia
- *discuss* the enactment of the curriculum development process for TVET curriculum in Namibia



In Assignment 2, you are required to use the curriculum, i.e. unit standards for your trade and prepare a proposal for the CEO of NTA which discusses the following aspects in relation to achieving the developmental aims and goals of Namibia:

- a. The aspects of the non-technical/scientific approach that are missing in the TVET curriculum and how that affects the achievement of the developmental goals of Namibia.
- b. The criteria that is used to organise the current content of the curriculum. Make suggestions on which other criteria needs to be included with justifications to achieve the developmental goals of Namibia.
- c. The alignment of the current curriculum to the criteria of self-sufficiency, significance, validity, interest, utility and feasibility and its impact on achieving the developmental goals of Namibia.
 - i. Which criteria is strongly presented in your content and which ones are not?
 - ii. What is the impact of such choices on achieving the developmental aims and goals of Namibia? What would you change and why?
- d. The alignment of the objectives of the curriculum with the developmental aims and goals of Namibia.
 - i. What do you think is missing and how will that affect the developmental aims and goals of Namibia?
 - ii. Make recommendations on how the objectives can be more aligned to the developmental aims and goals of Namibia.
- e. A successful curriculum according to Doll as cited in Ornstein and Hunkins (2018, pp.220-221) should have Richness, Recursion, Relations and Rigour.
 - i. Explain how well the curriculum in your trade is aligned with the 4R criteria of Doll.
 - ii. Suggest recommendations you would make to the curriculum in your trade to be more aligned to the 4R criteria of Doll?

Remember that the proposal must be convincing and is intended to the developmental aims and goals of Namibia. Please post any questions that you have in the Q & A Forum on eLearning about Assignment 2. I will be happy to respond to your questions.



In addition, on Wednesday, 8 December you will be writing the comprehensive test, weighting 45 % towards your final mark. This test will cover Units 1-6 in your Study Guide. If you wish to perform well, you are required to study very hard including revisiting the discussions, quizzes and other activities that you had to do for this semester on eLearning. I therefore would like to encourage you to please do so.

Best of luck with the test.

Regards

Bernadette