



## ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL ACUMEN THROUGH CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

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### Abstract:

*Curriculum delivery is the key in the success of achieving the learning outcomes, it helps in acquiring and demonstrating knowledge, attitudes, skills and values. It provides strategies further enhance and groom the students in their skills towards professional competence. This paper is an attempt to enhance professional acumen among the B.Ed students by enriching their curricular experiences.*

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### Introduction:

***'Learning never exhausts the mind'. Leonardo Da Vinci***

The curriculum delivered at PCER, Chembur provides opportunities for the students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge, skills, values and attitudes related to various learning areas through the following A fundamental understanding of the field of teacher education: Modelling of effective teaching strategies plays a key role in the way students teachers eventually teach. Expert talks and sessions conducted by alumni and heads of departments provide students with good insight into the field of education in general and challenges in the classroom in particular. The students get to learn from the experiences of various resource persons. Sessions on role of a teacher in changing times, classroom behaviour management help deepen student understanding and the need to emerge with new strategies in teaching learning process is focussed.

Procedural knowledge that creates teachers for different levels of school education skills that are specific to one's chosen specialization: Content

enrichment programs that aim to enhance students' subject knowledge along with age and developmentally appropriate teaching strategies are conducted. Assessment strategies for different skills across subject areas are also developed through sessions. The institution ensures that students acquire the knowledge and the skills for different levels of school education through innovative techniques and hands-on experience such as internship, field engagement, field trips, laboratory work, etc. Innovative teaching strategies such as demonstrations, seminars, brainstorming, group discussions, Power Point presentations and use of audio and video weblinks for clarity and understanding of each subject prescribed in the curriculum. These strategies further enhance and groom the students in their skills of teaching during internship programme and their professional competence.

Ability to expand from what one has learnt and apply acquired competencies: Learning skills like storytelling, creative teaching aid making, role of a teacher, effective classroom strategies, reflective

practices for teachers equip student teachers for their internship. They are encouraged and expected to apply the knowledge from the various workshops and sessions and implement them into their lesson planning and practice teaching activities. Students develop unit plans, blueprints for assessments, and conduct the assessments in schools. They are given the opportunity to apply all their knowledge in a real school scenario. Nai Talim week exposes students to a range of ideas and teaching methodologies which they incorporate into lesson plans. Students are given opportunities to apply learnt knowledge to real life situations through participation in team-work activities and various competitions organized at different levels.

Gaining Skills and Competencies s: Emotional Intelligence, Critical Thinking, Negotiation and Communication Skills, Collaboration with others, etc. Learning Q-EST, a series of sessions to develop emotional, social and teacher quotient in the students covers a range of skills. Developing emotional intelligence through guidance and counselling, life skills workshops, value added courses among students. Developing social skills of cooperation and collaboration through the numerous activities conducted every month as students plan, organize and conduct events. Their communication skills are encouraged and developed through the hosting and conducting the celebration of festivals, seminar presentation, team activities . Critical thinking is fostered through scenario-based learning, case study, problem solving, project method. Students engage in communication and negotiation effectively during their internship, community work, project activities, group work.

#### **Objective of the Study:**

To enhance professional acumen among the B.Ed students by enriching their curricular experiences.

**Sample:** F.Y. B.Ed and S.Y.B.Ed students of PCER, Chembur. There were 200 students involved in

the study.

**Findings of the study:** The institution conducts a wide range of curricular experiences that provide opportunities for students to implement what they have learnt. Institution caters to holistic development of every student through the EXCEL approach.

E- Experiential learning

X- eXclusive learning opportunities

C – Collaborative learning

E- Evidence based learning

L- Learner enhancement.

Learning about the importance of experiential learning and then having the experience of the same reinforces the idea as they have first-hand experiences of the benefits of learning by doing. To train the student-teachers in imparting and evaluating learning experiences and to inspire student-teachers to meet the challenges of dynamic society, students are involved in planning and organizing events for various days like Republic Day, Independence Day, Environment Day, Yoga Day etc are all learning experiences as they have to go ahead and plan such events in their professional lives as teachers and also to direct the student-teachers to fulfil their role as nation builders. To provide supportive skills in dealing with academic and personal problems of learners, teachers guide students through the planning of various activities; skits on World Aids Day, Human Rights Day; planning quiz competitions on Social Wellness, Environment Day, Ocean Day etc. This helps to cultivate organizational skills through teamwork, collaboration and co-operation and the process of planning, review, feedback, reworking, helps students hone their planning and organizational skills. While doing so they also develop a deeper understanding of the specific subject matter. During the pandemic the institution conducted sessions on online assessment creation. To gain sound knowledge of the subject Content Enrichment programme is conducted every year which includes an in-depth look at a concept



or topic, approaching it with a different perspective, or connecting the subject to a more meaningful or rewarding facet of the real world. To provide supportive skills in dealing with academic and personal problems of learners various sessions are conducted by the guidance and counselling cell of PCER. To nurture the thirst for knowledge and skills in the latest innovation and technologies in education students are motivated to use of various teaching learning tools during their internship and through action research programme. Expert talks are arranged to create an awareness among student teachers about community, national and global issues and students are provided with the opportunities to interact with experts in the field of education during such sessions. Through various activities like group discussions, cooperative learning, debate, internship programme, students are encouraged to develop networking skills with their contemporaries. This helps to cultivate organizational skills through teamwork, collaboration and co-operation. The student- teachers are trained in imparting and evaluating learning experiences during various activities like celebration of important days, participating in various competitions – intra and inter collegiate levels. Hence to derive professionally relevant understandings and consolidate these into student's professional acumen college provides the wide range of curricular experiences such as, Value Added courses, Expert sessions by Alumni, Action

Research, Presentation in Seminar, Skill Enhancement, Visits, Field Trips, Community outreach, Extension.

### Conclusion:

*“The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice.” — Brian Herbert*

PCER in pursuit of its vision and mission conducts various activities through the teaching learning process to nurture creativity, innovativeness, intellectual and thinking skills, empathy life skills among students. The institution provides several opportunities for students through a wide range of activities to develop their thinking skills, abilities, competencies, pedagogical practices towards their professional, pedagogical and personality enhancement and to make them humane, self-reliant teachers.

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