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Fundamentals *of* Curriculum *and* Instruction

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CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

What Curriculum is About

In this chapter, we are going to discuss some basic ideas about the curriculum. What it is, what it is not, what it consists of, how to recognise it, how to differentiate it from other related concepts etc. This is to help your understanding of the concept and to eradicate misconception of the term.

Specific Objectives

By reading this chapter, you should be able to:

1. variously define the concept of curriculum
2. relate each definition to a type of curriculum
3. mention the elements of a curriculum
4. differentiate between a curriculum, syllabus, scheme of work, lesson note and time table.

The Concept of the Curriculum

The word curriculum was derived from a Latin word, 'Currere' which means "a running course."

Many people have defined curriculum in various ways; for example Tyler (1949) defined curriculum as all the learning of students which is planned and directed by the school to attain its educational goals. He emphasised intended outcome of the educational system i.e. objectives. Any curriculum must start with the identification of curriculum objectives, which is also the most important aspect. The