

Discipline: Meaning and definitions

Meaning of Discipline

- Etymological meaning The term discipline originates from the Latin words discipulus, which means pupil, and disciplina, which means teaching
- The term discipline is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "a branch of learning or knowledge". It defines a discipline both as a noun and as a verb as follows

As noun

- a branch of knowledge;
- "in what discipline is his doctorate?";
- "teachers should be well trained in their subject";
- "anthropology is the study of human beings";
- a system of rules of conduct or method of practice;
- "he quickly learned the discipline of prison routine";
- "for such a plan to work requires discipline";
- the trait of being well behaved;
- "he insisted on discipline among the troops";
- training to improve strength or self-control;
- the act of punishing;

As verb

- develop (children's) behavior by instruction and practice; especially to teach self-control; "Parents must discipline their children";
- punish in order to gain control or enforce obedience;
- "The teacher disciplined the pupils rather frequently".

Definition

- Janice Beyer and Thomas Lodahl (1976)⁹ describes disciplinary fields as providing the structure of knowledge in which faculty members are trained and socialized; carry out tasks of teaching, research, and administration; and produce research and educational output.
- Disciplinary worlds are considered separate and distinct cultures that exert varying influence on scholarly behaviors as well as on the structure of higher education.
- Disciplinary communities establish

Definition

- According to M. S. Yadav and T.K.S Lakshmi (1995), discipline refers to a specific area of study- a branch of knowledge recognized by a certain distinctness it reveals in its substance and methodology.
- A discipline is a deliberate differentiation of the knowledge base with a specific perspective in order to gain better understanding of the phenomenon under focus.
- According to them, the knowledge base represents the sum total of the human understanding of environment. Disciplines are derived from the knowledge base but get formulated in recognizable differentiated forms of both substance and methodology due to further specialization, diversification and

Definition

- According to Dogan, 2001:12 "The term discipline refers both to organizational units in educational programs (for example, in schools) and to organizational units in knowledge production. The term 'discipline' is inherited from the vocabulary of nineteenth century and is understood as a branch of instruction for the transmission of knowledge and as a convenient mapping of academic administration
- The term 'academic discipline' certainly incorporates many elements of the meaning of 'discipline' discussed above. At the same time, it has also become a technical term for the organization of learning and the systematic production of new knowledge. Often disciplines are identified with taught subjects, but clearly not every subject taught at

Academic Discipline

- Zongyi Deng “an academic discipline **is a field or branch of learning affiliated with an academic department** within a university, formulated for the advancement of research and scholarship and the professional training of researchers, academics, and specialists.

Characteristics

- Disciplines have a particular object of research (e.g. plants, law, society, politics), though the object of research may be shared with another discipline.
- Disciplines have a body of accumulated specialist knowledge referring to their object of research, which is specific to them and not generally shared with another discipline.
- Disciplines have theories and concepts that can organize the accumulated specialist knowledge effectively.
- Disciplines use specific terminologies or a specific technical language adjusted to their research object.
- Disciplines have developed specific research methods according to their specific research requirements.
- Disciplines must have some institutional manifestation in the form of subjects taught at universities or colleges, respective academic

Classifications of Disciplines

- Fine Arts which include such disciplines as Art, Music, Theater, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts. The task of Fine Arts is to evaluate the human activity from the aesthetic point of view.
- Humanities which are History, Language, Literature, Philosophy, and Religion etc. This subgroup also has its own task which is to comprehend a human creature as a unique phenomenon.
- Social Sciences are Anthropology, Archeology, Area Studies, Cultural and Ethnic Studies, Economics, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology. The aim of this group of academic disciplines is to investigate social role of a human and the results of humans' activities. Social Sciences are divided into

- Sciences include Chemistry, Astronomy, Botany, Biology, and physics etc. The task of this group is to explore the nature.
- Mathematics covers such disciplines as Computer Sciences, Logic, Mathematics, and Statistics. The aim of this branch of knowledge is to explore and systemize abstract notions and relations between them.

Subject

- A subject or a field of study is a branch of knowledge that is taught and researched at the school, college or university level. A school subject refers to an area of knowledge that is studied in school . It can be called a learning tool or the criteria by which we learn. More precisely, subjects are the parts into which learning can be divided. It is a field or sphere of knowledge in which the learner has chosen to specialise.
- Humanist educators argue that school subjects are created to provide students with “intrinsically rewarding experiences” that contribute to the pursuit of self actualization, personal growth, and individual freedom . School subjects, therefore, need to be formulated according to the interest, attitudes, and developmental stages of individual

- Disciplinary knowledge might (or might not) be useful for the formation of school subjects
- From the perspective of social efficiency, school subjects are constructed for the primary purpose of maintaining and enhancing economic and social productivity by equipping future citizens with the requisite knowledge, skills, and capital. The formation of school subjects, therefore, is justified with close reference to the needs of occupation, profession, and vocation
- Specialized and applied fields (e.g., engineering, accounting, and marketing, among others), therefore, are the primary sources from which the contents of school subjects are derived
- For social reconstructionist, school subjects are created to provide students with meaningful learning experiences that might lead to emancipation and engender social agency. To this end, the formation of school subjects is based upon an examination of social contexts, social issues, and futures, with the intention of helping individuals reconstruct their own analyses,

Difference between Discipline and Subjects

Aims of education :Development of basic skills and awareness.
Development of a social citizen.

Development of specialised knowledge and skills.
Development of scholars, researchers, academics, specialists, etc.,

Nature of content Simple ideas and informations.

Complex theories of educators.
Curriculum construction
Considering needs, wants of learners. Includes learner centred teaching methods. Contents are arranged for the development of different specialised skills at complex and wider levels.

Development of skills Gives importance for the development of basic skills , such as reading , writing and arithmetic.

Gives importance for the development of specialised skills, mainly professional and vocational skills.

Area of operation Limited to Schools.

For university and other higher education

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL SUBJECTS AND ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

- school subjects are the connecting links to academic disciplines. Academic disciplines are of complex nature, and they are the continuation of school subjects
- School subjects are basis for the development of basic informations that will turns the learners into specialists in academic disciplines.
- A school subject results from the transformation of an Academic Discipline. School subjects come first and academic disciplines later in one's learning journey from school to university.
- An academic discipline provides the endpoint for the formation of a school subject and the school subject furnishes the avenue for getting to know the academic discipline.

● They contribute to the pursuit of self

