



COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION (CBE) WILL IT HELP STUDENTS TO BECOME LIFE LONG LEARNERS?

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ABSTRACT:

The 21st Century is known for skill based learning where competency and competitiveness are the two pillars of education. An individual with confidence and competence can overcome any difficulty in life and hence developing competency should be the base for education providers. CBE simply brings out the ability of an individual by expressing their skill while demonstrating in practical mode. CBE is the need of the hour as we need to give emphasize for competency based experiential learning to the children so that they can become fruitful citizen of India. The benefits of CBE are education be flexible, adaptable, self-paced, engaging and skill based. In a true sense CBE will help students to become a life-long learners.

Key words: CBE, Skill based education, Flexible education

INTRODUCTION:

The 21st Century is known for skill based learning where competency and competitiveness are the two pillars of education. One should be competent enough to compete with his/her peers and should stand on his/her own feet. As stated by Swami Vivekanand, "Education is a manifestation of perfection already in man". According to Tamil Sage Thiruvalluvar in his couplet number 391, states that qualitative education is "One should Learn Thoroughly without faults and remain firmly according to the learning".

fw;f frlwf; fw;git fw;wgpd;

epw;f mjw;F jf.

Further in his couplet no. 392 he states that “One should consider mathematics as one eye and language another”

vz; vd;g Vid vOj;J vd;g ,t;tpuz;Lk;

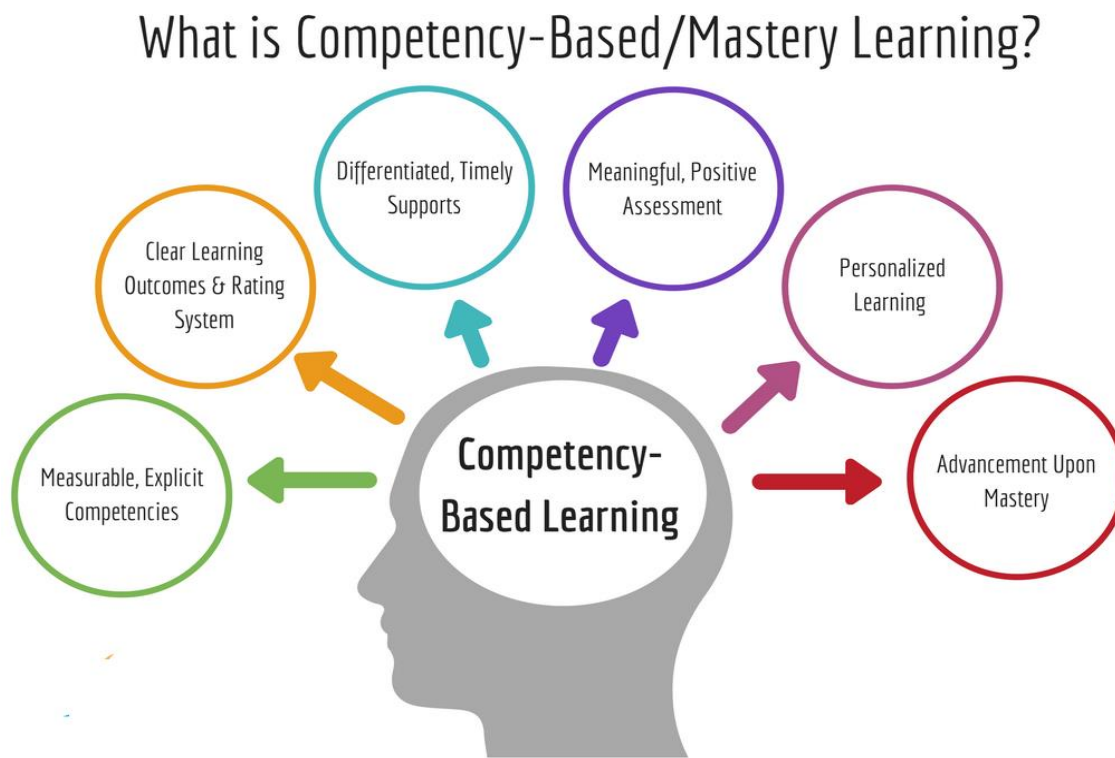
fz; vd;g thOk; caph;f;F

In a competitive world, one should be competent in not only understanding the concept in the subjects taught but also should know how to put them into practice in their day to day life-situation. Survival of the fittest is the slogan of the forest animals in the same way those who possesses skill will survive in the competitive world. Shift in the focus of assessment from rote memorisation to one that is more regular or formative. National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 has envisaged competency based education more than the rote learning as it helps students to become more dependable on their own capacities and potential. In this paper, we have attempted to highlight about competency based education and how it will help the students to become life-long learners.

WHAT IS COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION (CBE)?

Principally competency based education (CBE) approach helps students to improve their fundamental ability and thereby develop their skill to become master in that at their own pace irrespective of circumstances in which they are learning. This method is stitched in such a way that learning abilities of a student in different subjects helps them to become more efficient as far as the outcome of the learning is concerned. Students will be able to demonstrate their skill of mastery of learning / understanding the concepts and put them into practice, rather number of hours that they spent in classroom. Students will have to be prepared at the school itself to meet the tomorrow’s world on their own with their abilities in global but competitive economy. CBE can simply erase or dilute the short comings of the traditional learning where rote and mark oriented into much focused with outcome based learning. CBE can help students learn most effectively, to achieve greater equity, to foster deeper learning, or to create a system of continuous improvement. Learning has to be measured not in terms of how much marks scored but in terms of how much of learning been applied in practice. Further, CBE empower the students to discover their potential and enriching their knowledge and understanding while applying the concepts learnt. The demonstrative ability will prove their clear comprehension abilities of concepts and how to dissect each component of the concepts and put them into practice by undertaking project work. Further it enhances students to advance to the next level after they have mastered a skill as learning goals are centred around student’s needs. Each and every student receive differentiated support in CBE. Figure 1 describes the complete picture about the CBE where clear learning outcome, with a meaningful positive assessment which can be measured explicitly the competencies with personalized learning happen.

Figure 1.

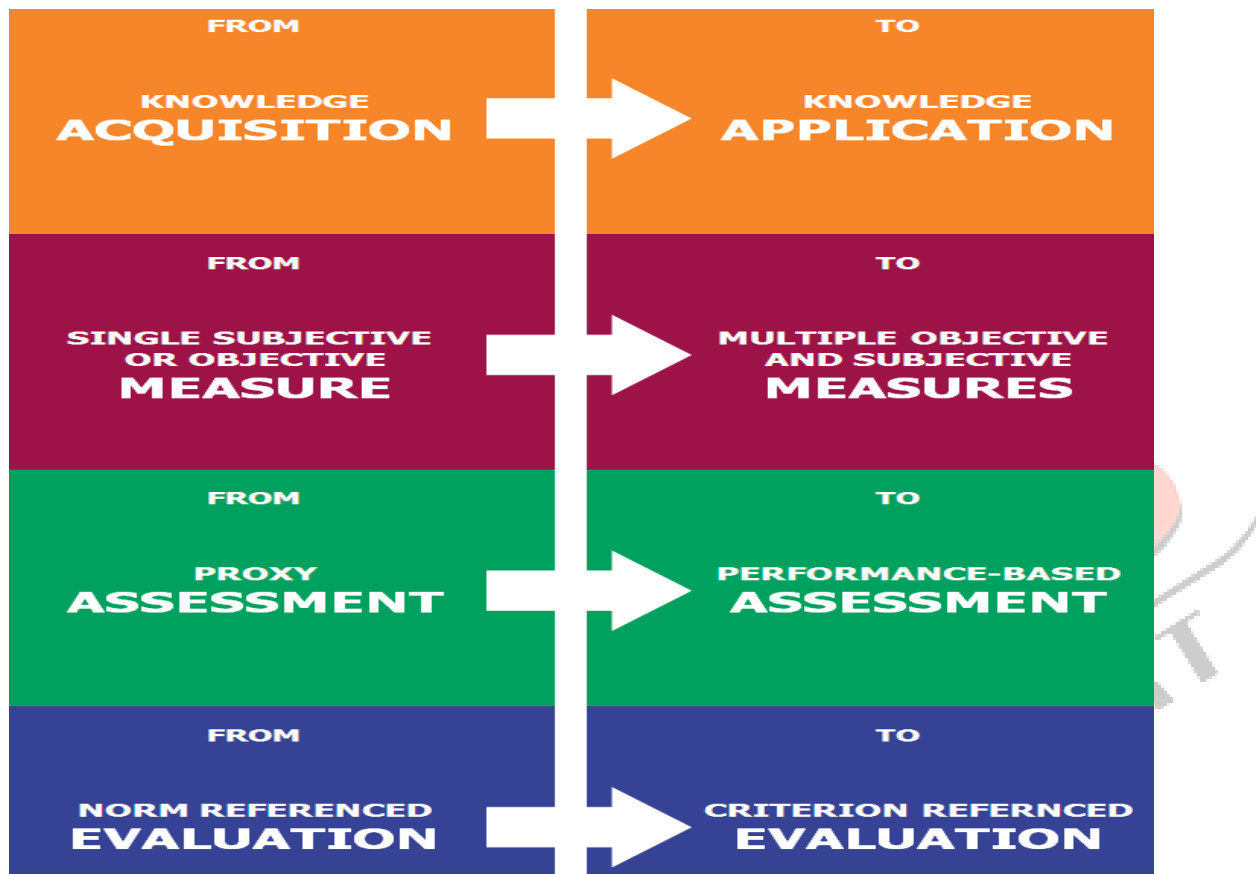


WHAT IS THE NEED FOR CBE?

Competency based education (CBE) need to develop skills and competencies among learners to respond to situations and tasks. Competencies to be defined in all curricular areas for effective learning. Promotion of life skills along with curricular goals and developing competencies for holistic development of learners. It is concerned chiefly with a student's progression through curriculum at their own pace, depth, etc. As competencies are proven, students continue to progress. It is similar to mastery-based learning, with the primary difference being that competency-based learning often focuses on observable skills or 'competencies,' while mastery learning may be academic—as likely to focus on concepts as skills. In the competitive world, there is an urgent need to develop CBE by empowering the teachers in getting proper training on latest pedagogies, adaptive assessment to optimize learning and development of all. Learners to be assessed on the basis of competencies like ability to reason, critical thinking, values, attitudes and concerns etc. When we evaluate the drawing based on certain themes, we apply certain criteria to make the judgement in the same way learning outcome also be evaluated using criteria which should be informed to the students well in advance. A clear move should be made from knowledge acquisition to knowledge application, from single measure objective to multiple measurable objectives, from proxy assessment to performance based assessment. Assessment is a meaningful, positive, and empowering learning experience for students that yields timely, relevant, and actionable evidence. Students learn actively using different pathways and varied

pricing. Rigorous, common expectations for learning (knowledge, skills, and dispositions) are explicit, transparent, measurable, and transferable. Learners to be assessed on the basis of competencies like ability to reason, critical thinking, values, attitudes and concerns etc. Assessment is embedded throughout and may look different for each student according to their achievement level. Learning outcomes consist of deep understanding and application of content to new situations. Student performance is determined by individual growth and mastery. The following figure describes the salient characteristics CBE and why it is needed in very lucid manner.

Figure 2.



DISTINCTION BETWEEN TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND CBE:

CBE helps students to kindle their interests, needs, backgrounds and their aspirations. CBE is more transparent for students, teachers and parents in understanding the level of students’ achievement. Both teachers and students will have clear objective of what they are going to learn and how they are going to apply in their day to day life situations. CBE provides opportunities for student learning, protected learning environments and successfully engage the young people in their learning. In CBE learning non-negotiable and time becomes variable. The following table will present the distinction between traditional educational system and competency based education system and how it will be helpful for the student to become a life-long learner.

Table 1.

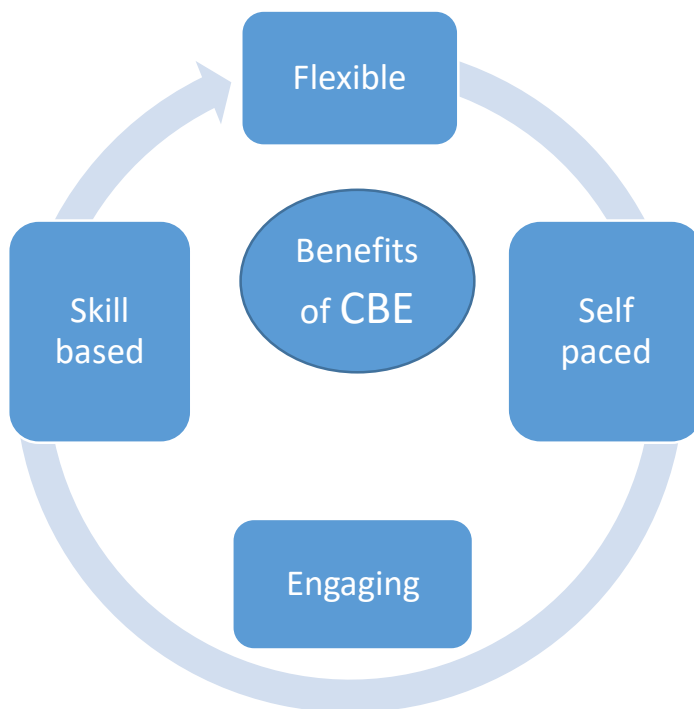
Distinguishing parameter	Traditional education system	Competency based education system
Outcomes	Memorization and understanding of academic content	Demonstration of learned knowledge and skill
Mind set	Fixed mind set	Growth mind set
Culture	Culture of compliance	Culture of empowerment
Support system	Need-based support to some students	Differentiated instruction and support to all the students
Pedagogy	Single curriculum for all students	Individual learning pathway for each student
Assessment	One-size-fits-all approach	Personalised learning approach
Proficiency standards	Different meaning for different people	Consistent meaning for everyone
Advancement	Time based	Learning based

ADVANTAGES OF COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION?

Competency based education can be an effective model with the capability of reducing inefficiency where the learners are allowed to learn at his/her own pace with a good understanding of pedagogical precision and demonstrating the outcome in achieving the ultimate goal. Its strengths lie in its flexibility, as learners are able to move at their own pace. This supports students with diverse knowledge backgrounds, literacy levels, and other related aptitudes. Its challenges should sound familiar to most educators, including the difficulty in identifying—and agreeing upon—the most important competencies, how to best assess them, and how to support learners that struggle. On paper, technology adds a new wrinkle to competency-based learning, as it provides students with access to content to develop said competencies. If every student can access the same content the teacher does, there is less of a need for the class to move together, and students are able to prove their understanding on more personal and authentic terms. CBE, enable the students to apply the concepts which are taught in class by seeing the demonstrative capacity using technology. For example some students may comprehend concept of gravitational force by observing two different objects with mass and weight at their own pace. Student may show their mastery skill only when their understanding of the concept is used in practicality. To reach that level, they need to refine, redefine and reflect on their comprehending level.

What is unique about CBE is that it focuses on what students learn and not on the time spent in the classroom completing credits. In this approach, students work at their own pace to demonstrate mastery in the competencies necessary for their chosen area/subjects they like most. In order to make improvements, challenges to resolve the present day can get help from their past competencies. For understanding, improvement percentages are needed while changes are real in the fields. Working for positive changes justifying from facts takes mental evidencing. Focus should be on “Doing” rather than “knowing” that is the power of competency based education. Agnostic as to how student acquired knowledge and how long it took (flexible) which is measurable and observable. Multiple opportunities to receive feedback, revise and resubmit. Evaluated by experts using rubrics where the assessment of each criterion is explained thoroughly to the students. CBE helps in building up intellectual power skill by promoting critical thinking and problem solving ability with collaborative work culture and team spirit. Ability to apply knowledge in real world settings is the essence of CBE. The benefits of Competency based education (CBE) is highlighted in figure 3.

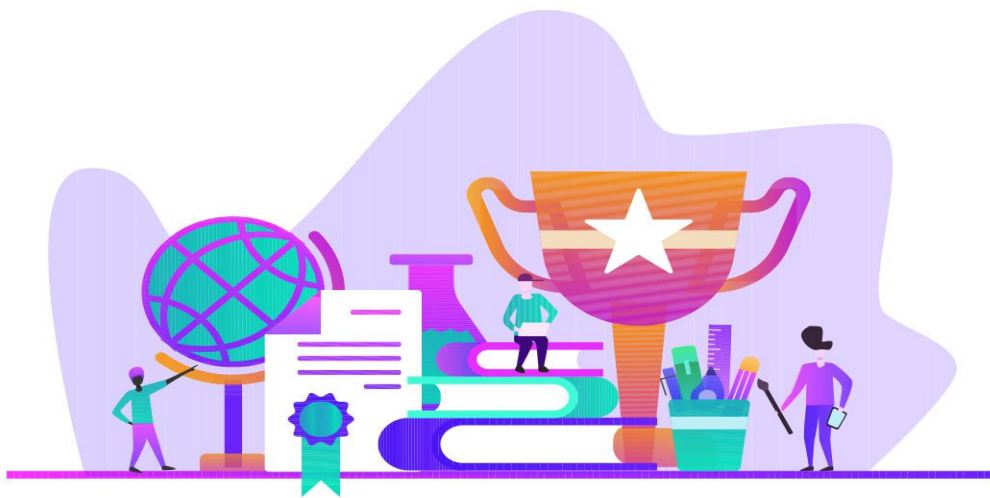
Figure 3.



1. **Flexible:** Competency Based Education (CBE) enable the students to learn individually and allow students to have a control on their own learning by completing projects and assessments based on certain criterion which is already explained by the teachers.
2. **Self-paced:** Ultimate aim of CBE to look for final outcome as students themselves are in control of the process at their own pace it may either slow or fast depends on their understanding capacity. Once student feels that they can prove their mastery and can take the assessment and get a degree or diploma. This is a huge benefit for independent and adult learners who may be working towards a degree around other schedules.

3. **Engaging:** The ownership of learning has been thrust upon the students where individualized learning in collaboration of various learning style relevant to their understanding. Students are more engaged in the material because they have ownership over their learning. They are empowered because they have control over when, where and how they learn.
4. **Skills-based:** The key for the success of CBE is that learning has been facilitated by the teachers and it is more student centred and their competency development. Students will have to apply their knowledge skills in demonstrating in the real world situation. Student work on their developmental skill in a paced manner and become expertise in their chosen field on their own. For many students, CBE is a direct path to a successful career. Figure 4 vividly explore the advantages of CBE in such a way that student will become a world citizen if they apply the knowledge acquired in practice to have a humanly possible and peaceful life with harmony.

Figure 4.



CONCLUSION:

Competency based education build trust and confidence, resolve conflict, application of analytical skills, critical thinking, adaptability, and initiative with risk taking ability. Moreover, CBE help in integrity, ethical reasoning while making decisions and act responsibly. If a student wanted to become a life-long learner, Competency Based Education (CBE) is one of the essential tool where the students can demonstrate their understanding skill by applying the conceptual comprehension into practice by doing project work to show his/her mastery over the subject and accept the views of others and thereby develop a team work where success is the ultimate goal.

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