

## Assignment 9 Discussion - Overt & Covert Curriculum

Respond to the following statement. Curriculum is seen as existing in two dimensions or layers: the overt, formal official curriculum and the "hidden" curriculum.

Curriculum is the array of learning experiences students will absorb in the school setting. The school curriculum involves many dimensions or layers of learning experiences. However, most people assume the overt curriculum is the only curriculum in schools, for obvious reasons; it is the course content that formally and explicitly is covered in the classroom. The course content can easily be found in written documents (e.g. lesson plans) that specifies the goals, standards, and objectives that will be accomplished in the school classroom. This curriculum is the subject matter curriculum.

The covert curriculum is the routines or rituals that take place to accomplish the "intentional instructional agenda" of schools. It is the un-written and non-academic attitudes, outcomes, and/or behaviors that all students are informally expected to learn and follow. The learning experiences gained through the covert curriculum are mostly subtle, unnoticeable, and considered the norm; therefore, rarely questioned by students, parents, and educators. This type of curriculum tends to benefit the interest of particular groups of our society.

A third layer or dimension in the curriculum is the null curriculum, which in my opinion has a greater effect in the learning experiences. The null curriculum is what schools and educators do not teach, neglecting students the opportunity to acquire relevant and important knowledge and keeping them ignorant or unaware of the possible consequences of this skipped knowledge. There is a popular phrase that says "learning is power" but knowledge that is excluded, such power is taken away from the students.

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