

## COMMENTARY

## Outcome - based education: Shaping the future of learning

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Conventional methodologies are being replaced by more interactive and learner-focused approaches amidst the rapidly evolving educational landscape. One such paradigm shift is the adoption of Outcome-Based Education (OBE), a methodology that emphasizes the mastery of specific skills and knowledge over the mere accumulation of content.<sup>1</sup> As we await this educational transformation, exploring the intricacies and potential benefits inherent in OBE has become paramount.

OBE revolves around the idea that the ultimate goal of education is to equip students with skills and competencies that enable them to succeed in their chosen fields and contribute meaningfully to the society.<sup>2</sup> This shift from content-centered learning to competency-centered learning aligns education more closely with the demands of a rapidly changing job market where adaptability, problem-solving and critical thinking are valued more than ever before.<sup>1</sup>

The implementation of OBE comes with its own set of challenges and considerations. The experiences vary greatly based on the country, educational infrastructure, and cultural context. Research findings suggest that institutions implementing OBE experienced enhanced student engagement and satisfaction.<sup>1</sup> Students are proven to become more motivated to learn when they understand the tangible skills they are acquiring and can see their progress toward achieving defined learning outcomes.

OBE also addresses the concern of skills mismatch that often plagues traditional education systems. According to the Future of Jobs Report 2020, the World Economic Forum highlights how creativity and emotional intelligence are becoming more crucial. This forum values complex problem-solving, creativity and emotional intelligence. OBE's emphasis on learning

outcomes ensures that university graduates possess these essential skills, making them more adaptable to the changing job market dynamics.<sup>2</sup>

Critics of OBE, however, voice concerns about standardization and the potential lack of flexibility in curriculum design. A study by Spady and Marshall, raised the issue of balancing standardized outcomes with the need for diverse and personalized learning experiences.<sup>3</sup> This suggests that while OBE can provide a solid framework, it should allow room for individualized learning paths.

Faculty development plays a crucial role in implementing OBE effectively. Experts emphasize the need for continuous training to help educators design meaningful assessments aligned with desired learning outcomes.<sup>4</sup> This enhances teaching quality and accurately measures students' achievements.

In conclusion, the shift to OBE holds immense promise for the future of learning. It is an approach that equips students with relevant skills, promotes active engagement, and aligns education with the demands of the contemporary job market. However, it requires a delicate balance between standardized outcomes and personalized learning experiences. By embracing OBE, institutions can bridge the gap between education and real-world application, fostering a generation of well-prepared learners to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

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The authors has no conflict of interest to declare.

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