

The Core Competencies of the Competency-Based Curriculum | Makini

The Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) in Kenya has emerged as ground-breaking in the education sector. It introduced a fresh perspective on how students acquire knowledge and skills, placing a strong emphasis on core competencies. These core values have become pivotal in shaping our learners' characters.

The core competencies in the CBC encompass a set of skills and attributes that students are expected to acquire during their educational journey. These values go beyond traditional subject-based learning and focus on holistic development. They include critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, digital literacy and lifelong learning.

The Benefits of Core Competencies in CBC

The implementation of core competencies in CBC offers a plethora of advantages to learners. These competencies provide a more comprehensive and well-rounded education that prepares learners for the complexities of the real world. Here are some of the key benefits:

1. Holistic Development

CBC's core competencies foster holistic development by emphasising skills that are essential not only in academics but also in life. This allows learners to become well-rounded individuals at school and at home.

2. Problem-Solving

Learners learn critical thinking skills, enabling them to analyse problems and find innovative solutions. Parents can help their children improve these skills by assisting them in figuring out how to manage their time between homework, play time, chores and other activities.

3. Communication

Effective communication is a cornerstone of success. CBC emphasises strong communication skills, which are valuable in all aspects of life.

4. Collaboration

Learners are encouraged to work together, promoting teamwork and cooperation. This is a lifelong skill a child can carry with them into adulthood.

5. Digital Literacy

In today's technology-driven world, digital literacy is a must. CBC equips students with these essential skills.

6. Lifelong Learning

With a focus on lifelong learning, CBC instils the value of continuous education and self-improvement.

The Role of Competency-Based Assessment

In the CBC, assessment methods are designed to measure a student's understanding of core competencies. These assessments differ from traditional exams in that they focus on real-world applications of knowledge and skills. Competency-based assessment includes project-based assignments, practical demonstrations and continuous evaluations. The following are a few benefits of competency-based assessment:

1. Individualised Learning

Assessment in CBC is tailored to individual progress, allowing students to advance at their own pace.

2. Reduced Exam Stress

The elimination of high-pressure exams reduces stress levels and promotes a more relaxed learning environment.

3. Skill Mastery

Competency-based assessment ensures that students truly master the core competencies, rather than simply memorising information for exams.

Parental Involvement and Support in the Competency-Based Curriculum

Parents play an important role in a learner's educational journey, especially in a competency-based curriculum. Their involvement and support can make a significant difference in a child's development.

- **Understanding the Curriculum:** Parents should familiarise themselves with the CBC, its core values, and the assessment methods. This knowledge enables them to support their children effectively.
- **Encouragement and Motivation:** Parents can motivate their children by showing interest in their progress, praising their efforts and providing encouragement.
- **Engaging with Teachers:** Communication with teachers and school staff can help parents stay informed about their child's progress and any areas that may need improvement.
- **Creating a Supportive Environment:** A nurturing home environment that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and effective communication complements the CBC's goals.
- **Balancing Extracurricular Activities:** While the CBC emphasises core competencies, a well-rounded education includes extracurricular activities. Parents can help students strike a balance.

A modern education requires modern approaches. That is why parents and teachers must work together to help learners thrive under the competency-based curriculum.