

Nature and Characteristics of a Discipline

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Discipline

Meaning of Discipline The term 'discipline' originates from the Latin words *discipulus*, which means pupil, and *disciplina*, which means teaching. A discipline is focused study in one academic field or profession.

Origin

Academic –
Belonging or
relating to a place
of learning . Eg
college, university,
academy

Discipline – from
two Latin words

Disciulus-pupil
and Disciplina
–teaching

Academic disciplines-Meaning...(1)

- Academic discipline is **a field or branch of learning** affiliated with an academic department of a university, formulated for the advancement of research and scholarship.
- Academic discipline is **formulated** for the **professional training of researchers, academics and specialists**.
- An academic discipline or „**field of study**“ is **a branch of knowledge** that is taught and researched as part of higher education.
- Examples for Academic Disciplines are Anthropology, Space Science, psychology, sociology, archeology, Education etc.

Definition

- An academic discipline or field of study is a branch of knowledge that is taught and researched as a part of higher education

Wikipedia

- Academic discipline is a vast accumulation of knowledge in a specific area

Characteristics of AD

- Disciplines have a body of accumulated specific knowledge
- D have theories and concepts that can organize the accumulated specific knowledge effectively
- D use specific terminologies or a specific technical language
- D have developed specific research methods according to their specific research requirements

- D must have some institutional manifestation in the form of subjects taught at universities or colleges, respective academic department and professional associations connected to it
- Most AD have their root in middle to late 19th century
- Education and psychology were added in the 20th C
- Professional course were also added such as: nursing, teaching, architect, hospital management etc
- Interdisciplinary scientific fields such as bio-chemistry, geo-physics , home science were also added

Nature of Discipline

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.

Let us derive the nature of discipline from what we have presented so far and our experience with dealing with different disciplines:

- Discipline implies an order
- Discipline is related to learning
- Discipline is related to putting some order to learn
- Discipline is making some organization with the purpose of learning
- It involves some efforts made to organize teaching
- It involves some efforts made to organize learning

- It is related to teaching learning process
- It is related to knowledge organization process
- It is related to processing of knowledge
- **It involves deduction of more knowledge through organization of the existing knowledge**
- It is basically related to learning process and hence education
- It is related to the learner teacher, experts and specialists
- It is related to construction of new knowledge
- **It implies that knowledge grows and expands**

- It implies that knowledge is not final.
- It involves a process of classification.
- It is a body of specialised knowledge
- It has theories and concepts
- It has specific terminology
- Its specific object is research
- It has got definite methodology of research

