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(57) Abstract :

Tertiary education is a complex educational system driven by curriculum that constitutes knowledge, skills, professionalism and entrepreneurship. The outcome of education based on a good curriculum meets the needs of the Higher Learning Institutions, Society and Industry and contributes to the growth of any knowledge economy. The Indian Skills Report 2019(AICTE, 2019) recommends to revalidate the curriculum to meet the industry demands and then work with the industries to put them into use. Thus, this is the right time for the higher educational institutions to take up the issue seriously and design, build and develop the right kind of curriculum for the future to bridge the existing gap between academia and industry, in other words to map Industry 4.0 with Education 4.0. This invention relates the usage of the concept of the novel design thinking approach in designing and structuring a new curriculum framework model for undergraduate and postgraduate curricula in higher educational institutions for the first time to fulfill the above mapping. The invention specifically proposes the design, structure and content development of the curriculum using the design thinking approach to fulfil the needs of the learners and industry-employers by reducing the gap between students<sup>TM</sup> skills set and stakeholders expectations. The Design Thinking concept used here is basically a linear/nonlinear iterative process which seeks to understand the users namely the learners and employers to redefine problems and create innovative solutions through the right kind of curriculum. To reduce the industry-academia gap, the needs of the stakeholders are studied and suitable elective tracks and courses are introduced in the outcome based curriculum under Choice Based Credit System. Within each track of the curriculum, three levels of courses are identified which cater to the needs of knowledge, skill and professionalism respectively. Industrial training, internship and industry project are mandatory as part of the professionalism that will help the learners to practice the required industry skills and match them for further placements in the relevant industries. The model has achieved a good success through its implementation at Dr.SNS Rajalakshmi College of Arts and Science(Autonomous), Coimbatore, Tamilnadu. References: 1. AICTE, 2019, <https://www.aicte-india.org/sites/default/files/India%20Skill%20Report-2019.pdf>, [accessed 20 Apr 2020]

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