

NEW TRENDS IN HOME SCIENCE

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HOME SCIENCE IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Home science in early 20th century or even in late 19th century was not offered as a discipline but was more a subject of study. It was offered in selected schools aiming at preparing future housewives for aristocratic families. It was then referred to as House Craft and Domestic Science. As Domestic Science, it had an eminent place even at the College Level for women. In Karve University which is now known as SNDT Women's University, Domestic Science was a popular subject. Today Home Science is offered at various levels of education and in various programmes of education, development and welfare.

WHAT IS HOME SCIENCE ?

Literally, the word Home Science can be interpreted as Systematic Education for home living. Making of a home for centuries, was an art in India. The art of home making had a significant place in the sixty four arts an individual had to master for successful living. A girl desirous of marrying and settling down as a housewife had to have good home making quality as one of the thirty two qualities, she had to possess.

RECENT DEFINITION OF HOME SCIENCE

Today Home Science is described as a multipurpose programme of study which take care of individual's need and interests and develops need abilities and capacities for successful homemaking in a dynamic society. Training in Home Science is not meant to substitute the traditional training received at home. In fact with the changing social scene.

RECENT PHILOSOPHY OF HOME SCIENCE.

Today it takes one to home making education for better home making through gainful employment and worthy membership of the community. Philosophy of Home Science is linked with the Philosophy of home and family as emphasized traditionally through Indian culture it stands for material as well as emotional well being and security of its residents. It is a deep rooted philosophy.

Slowly Home Science as a professional discipline is gaining a position in the Indian Society today with the changing roles of Home Maker from that of a wife and a mother to a wage earner and community worker, a need is being felt to vocationalize programme of Home Science Education.

Home Science in a dynamic society like ours is ever changing phenomenon. Basic principles and objectives of Home Science are subject to change in

social, professional as well as other related contexts with changing roles of women and the families in a society. The knowledge and information concerning Home Science is primarily derived from Physical, Biological and Social Sciences and is applied to home for personal and professional growth.

OBJECTIVES

Objective is referred to as an implicit formulation of a statement regarding something one want to achieve. Home & family is a place where every individual spends most of the time of his life. As it used to be expressed earlier, every child was borne & brought up in the family but today through most of the children are born in institutions other than home, majority still belong to a family and they are brought up by the families. The family gives them a name status as well as security without which their life cannot be stable and worth living.

The study of Home Science offers three most cherished goals namely :

- 1) Around development of the personalities of the members in home & family.
- 2) Preparation for career.
- 3) Ability to manage homes and families.

Successful home making and family life demand the best education to meet the challenges resultant of dynamic social order. No other programme of education offers opportunities to achieve all these three objectives at the same time.

General Objectives of Home Science in India :

- Educating individuals for family living.
- Educating individuals to manage use of resources to attain values and goals of individual, family as well as society.
- Achieving satisfactory and functional / philosophy of life with emphasis on personal & family living.
- Developing wholesome personality.
- Interpreting Home Science to students and public in the light of larger purpose of education and of basic social needs.
- Preparing students for employment in Home Science and related fields.
- Solving problems concerning home and family life through constructive thinking.
- Helping students to develop a sense of beauty in every phase of daily living.

SCOPE OF HOME SCIENCE

The scope of Home Science is as wide as the scope of living itself as it deals with the very art of living. Today Home Science Education is not limited to training good housewives or ideal mother only. It is more to train youngsters for improved quality of life. The scope of Home Science can be broadly classified

into two aspects. The **Educational scope** of Home Science and the **vocational scope** of home science.

HOW HOME SCIENCE DIFFERS FROM OTHER ?

The academic programme of Home science includes teaching of various basic as well as applied disciplines. It derives fundamentals from various arts, sciences and humanities for application to day to day living. As an academic field of education Home Science is different from other fields in that :

- It has a concern for home and family living :
Its programme of education rotates around the home – within the four walls as well as in relation to its environment and the family. The interpersonal relations within and the social interaction outside the family. It is concerned with the dynamic nature of the family. The effect of change in family which affects the very business of home making and family life, is of immediate concern to every home scientist. Thus Home Science Education has as its nucleus ‘the home’ and the whole academic programme even today rotates around it.

- It personalism Instructions :

Probably no other discipline that Home Science believes so firmly that as no two individuals are alike, no two families can be similar. It believes in the differences in families, in its nature, composition, interactions etc. Therefore Home Science Education is broad based. It has within its realm everything that has anything to do with home and family.

● It unifies knowledge from basic arts, sciences and humanities to solve the problems arising out of day to day living : It doesn't stop there; it goes a step further and prepares its students, through application of this unified knowledge, to meet the challenges resultant of modern living. ● Home Science thus develops in the students the necessary skills and technique required for better home making and family living :

Besides preparing for greatest of all vocation i.e. home maker, it prepares the students for gainful employment and worthy citizenship which is requirement of any democratic society.

ROLE OF HOME SCIENCE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

● Fulfillment of the objectives of general education namely; education for living, personality development and national service . ● Preparation of students for number of careers. ● Promotion of realization and national aspirations for developing planned family, applying nutrition for healthy living, working for child and family welfare for intelligent management of resources and utilization of family savings for national development and above all for promotion of national integration.

Home scientists with their knowledge and concern and human life and happiness can work effectively since many of the national development programs are

शोध, समीक्षा और मूल्यांकन (अन्तरराष्ट्रीय शोध पत्रिका)

for women and children. Home scientists can successfully help the nation to achieve their targets. The role of Home Science as an educational discipline in developing the future citizen and inculcating in them citizenship qualities for their future role is significant.

HOME SCIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION :

Home Science at College level was offered as early as in 1932 at the Lady Irwin College at the initiative of All India Women's Conference. This college also offered a Post Graduate Diploma in Education and Teachers Training to produce teachers to take positions in schools as well as newly opening colleges of Home Science. Today Home Science is being offered by over 150 institutions of higher learning through private colleges as well as universities.

Today, Home Science has a place in Technical Institutes of Higher learning namely ;

● Home Science in Women's Polytechnic ● Bachelor of Arts Degree Programme in Home Making Education. ● Master of Arts Degree in Home making Education. ● Bachelor of Science Programme in Home Making Education. ● Master of Science Programme in Home Making Education ● Bachelor of Education with Home Science. ● Honours Programme in Home Science ● Master of Philosophy in Home Science. ● Doctor of Philosophy in Home Science. ● Home Science in Agricultural Universities. ● Diplomas in Home Science. ● U. G. Course in Early Childhood Education. ● P. G. Diploma in Preschool Education. ● P. G. Diploma in Dietetics. ● P. G. Diploma in Institutional Management. ● U. G. & P. G. Diplomas in Interior Decoration. ● P. G. Diploma in Extension Education.

VOCATIONAL SCOPE OF HOME SCIENCE

The term vocation refers to an impulse to perform a certain function or enter a certain Career. It is a functional or career towards which one believes herself to be called. Vocational Home Science thus can be defined as education or training intended to prepare one for occupation related to home making.

According to Saraswathi (1976).

NEED & SIGNIFICATNCE OF VOCATIONALIZATION OF HOME SCIENCE

Vocationalization of education and re-organization of educational programmes have been accepted as essential steps for national development. Education is viewed as an important process for national development & planned social change in any country. In the recent years Home Science as an educational discipline has gained considerable importance. It has been included in all forms of education name formal, non formal and informal. It is also included at various levels of education. Viz. high school, higher secondary school, college and university level. **As indicated by Saraswathi (1976).**

A birds eye view over the turnover of graduates in Home Science necessitates the thinking for vocationalization of the field of Home Science. As indicated by Saraswathi (1976). Home Science was being offered by over 58 institutions together had a turnover of 5,000 undergraduates and about 500 graduate students respectively of which 10% of undergraduates and over 55% of graduates on our average are found to be working in wage earning occupations. Today there are over 150 institutions of Higher learning in Home Science. Thus the percentage of graduates working or seeking work will be more than double of the envisaged earlier.

Now over 30 years Home Science is being offered at High School Level. In many states of India, it is offered as an additional stream of education in Higher Secondary education programme. It is also included as one of the many courses offered by Technical and vocationalization of Home Science Education has become inevitable.

The idea of vocationalising Home Science is not new. As early as in 1966, the **Home Science Association of India emphasized** the need for publicizing this field for job opportunity. This is indicated in its objectives such as :

- Preparing for the greatest of all profession i.e. wife and mother.
- Preparing for career.
- Training graduates in Home Science to meet needs of research.
- Training for leadership in Home Science programmes.

Even the **Education Commission as early as in 1964** recommended that Home Science in addition to giving General Education should equip its students on a scientific basis for work in the professional fields. Therefore if Home Science Education has to be vocationalized, it will have to follow a systematic approach. The line of procedure to be followed for this as indicated by **Saraswathi (1976) calls for six sequential steps namely :**

SYSTEMATIC PROMOTION OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF VOCATIONALIZATION OF HOME SCIENCE

- (1) Identifying Home Science requisite jobs.
- (2) Identifying the knowledge and skills specifically needed for these jobs.
- (3) Incorporating learning experiences for acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed for these jobs.
- (4) Publishing the training given to the Home Scientists striving for actual employment.
- (5) Actual Placement efforts
- (6) Evaluating the training imparted in terms of the quality of job.

Systematic application of the theory behind vocational development is the only way for successful vocationalization of Home Science.

RECENT NEED OF VOCATIONALIZATION OF HOME SCIENCE

Vocationalizing the field of Home Science Education has

become intense as well as almost imperative Recent need of vocationalization of Home Science are:

- 1) National Investment :** Expenditure on education is national investment, thus it is expected to have its returns in the form of services of the graduates for the welfare and progress of nation.
- 2) Potential Job Offerings :** With the change in social composition of the students enrolling in colleges and institutions of higher learning offering Home Science, the percentage of students pursuing job is considerably increasing. They are looking for job potentials for gainful employment in this field too.
- 3) Tremendous increase in student populations :** There is a tremendous increase in student population coming for Home Science Education of these a large proportion of student look for gainful returns from gainful employment.
- 4) Varied Areas of Specialization :** The field of Home Science till recently was restricted to a few areas of specialization with more and more expansion and broadening of this discipline various areas of specialization too are cropping up. This is a positive indication for development of Home Science as a vocational field. There is a clear indication about Home Science having excellent job potentials.

JOB OPPURTUNITIES FOR HOME SCIENTISTS CLASSIFIED IN SEVEN MAJOR AREAS OF WORK :

- (1) Teaching
- (2) Research
- (3) Institutional Management
- (4) Extension and Social Welfare
- (5) Business and Industrial Concern
- (6) Communication
- (7) Self Employment.

CONCLUSION

If some workable solution can be found to straighten up these problems vocationalization of Home Science Education as a vital field for promotion of gainful employment of its ever increasing graduates will be within reach. It would thus be an asset not only to individuals but to organizations who need their expertise. This will result in richer and fuller home life which is an ultimate goal of Home Science education and also richness of society even today is measured in terms of richness of the homes and families in a given society. **Home and family thus are the measuring Yardsticks of social progress even in the modern world** and Home Science contributes to the fulfillment of well – being as well as security of the members of home and family, strengthening the family for the main purpose of development and gratification of human beings and their needs.

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