

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – NECESSARY!



WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

Gone are the days when children would happily play outside their homes. Now, we see them slogging over books or hooked on to the Internet. Agreed academics play a vital role in their future, but that doesn't mean extra-curricular activities should take a back seat! Children need to be given all the opportunities to break free from the demands of academics and explore their areas of interest in arts, music or sports. Otherwise, the purpose of education stands defeated.

Even foreign universities look for candidates who are well rounded. Apart from academic excellence, weightage is also given to interest in other activities. Moreover, engagement in extra-curricular activities keeps a person mentally stable and physically fit.

When children participate in extra-curricular activities, they start doing things differently and creatively. So, why bind them only to academics? Let them soar high and explore all that life has to offer.

Nandhini, IX
Primrose Schools, Chennai

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A TEDIOUS TASK

Can taking part in extra-curricular activities get us seats in an Ivy League college? May be not. But excelling in academics definitely can. Thus, academics are more crucial to a student's future than extra-curricular activities like drawing or singing.

While participation in extra-curricular activities does create a good impression and help in the development of an individual, it is the marks/grades scored in academics that decide the future. A good academic record is sure to get us admission in a college of our choice, which eventually opens the doors to a bright career path.

Also, it can be a tedious task to manage time to complete school work, study for exams, and then engage in extra-curricular activities. Such expectations create a lot of pressure on students, which inevitably results in a fall in grades.

Meenakshi, IX
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A TEACHER'S VERDICT

I strongly believe that schools should focus on integrated learning and that extra-curricular activities should be introduced along with academics. This will help children achieve higher goals, as active minds can better concentrate on studies.

The international education scenario is evolving from an academics-oriented model to a more holistic one. The best schools in the world are now giving importance to the learning of phenomena rather than that of just subjects. The challenge in gaining knowledge through learning subjects is that it creates artificial boundaries, which do not allow children to

explore, connect and understand the real world around them. This is a threat posed by our current methodology of splitting academics and extra-curricular activities.

Children should look forward to coming to school every day for the fun and joy of learning. This cannot happen if the schools turn into pressure cookers of academics. The joy of learning can be experienced only when there is a smooth integration of academics and extra-curricular activities. In my opinion, this is the recipe for creating future innovators and leaders.

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