

MODULE 1

K-12 EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN INDIA

CBSE, CISCE, IB, Cambridge, State Board, NIOS, Home Schooling, and more. There are so many options, each with its own set of benefits for students. It is little wonder then, that parents these days, have a hard time deciding which curriculum is the best fit for their child.

Univariety has collaborated with Educators, Schools and other experts across the country to design this course which helps you make critical decisions about which Curriculum and type of School is most suited to your child.

In this course, you will gain in-depth insight into all the curricula that are offered in India, how to assess which curriculum is the right fit for your child and family, and in the end, how to choose a great school among the numerous options available in your city.

We encourage you to go through each module and the corresponding videos. Every module is designed to help you gain insights and information and make more informed choices.

This course contains a set of reading material over and above the course content, to help you understand various aspects of Indian education in even more detail.

So, let us start off on this journey where the first pit stop would give you an overview of the K-12 education system in the country.

In our Module 1, we will be covering:

- Emerging trends in 21st century Indian education system,
- Evolution of the International Curricula in India, and
- Changing trends across National Curricula

Gone are the days when choosing a school was as easy as enrolling at the one next door. Now, a range of factors need to be taken into account for enrolling your kids into one. Let us give you an overview of the K-12 system in the country. K-12 is an acronym for Kindergarten-12th which highlights the first and the last grade of school.

Did you know that India has one of the largest K-12 systems in the world?

With over 1.46 million K-12 Schools, with over 250 million students enrolled across curricula, it is indeed one of the largest in the world! [1].

Within the Indian education system, the most popular curricula other than State Boards are:

- National Curriculum comprising of the Central Board of Secondary Education i.e. CBSE and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination i.e. ICSE or CISCE, and
- International Curriculum comprising of International Baccalaureate i.e. IB and Cambridge Assessment International Education i.e. Cambridge International.



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

Section - A

Emerging trends in 21st Century education in India

Before we deep dive into what makes these curricula so unique, let us explore the emerging trends that are shaping up the Indian education system:

1. **Proactive Hands-On experience:** Indian education has gone beyond textbooks with the core focus on experiential learning. Right from kindergarten to Grade 12, education has taken the form of active learning through experience thus moving away from a textual approach. For example, children in Grade 1 are no longer asked to mug currency coins or taught spellings on a standard 'blackboard'. They are now exposed to techniques like interactional games, assembling of actual toy parts and more such innovative ways of learning.
2. **Focus on Physical Fitness:** Outdoor activities are being integrated as a regular feature of a student's timetable. With over a third of Senior School students falling under the obese category, a range of physical fitness initiatives have been launched.

With The Indian Government's directives to each school to focus on physical fitness with a dedicated fitness plan, fitness has been taken to a new level altogether. After all, a healthy body houses a healthy mind!

3. **Technology Based Learning:** Now this one isn't that new, but with smart classrooms across campuses, technology has also made its way to other arenas of modern day K-12 education.

AI based assessments, student record keeping, personalized profile analysis and Virtual Reality are revolutionizing classrooms across the country. [3]

In addition to student development, the trend of continuous learning opportunities for educators has also been catching up in schools as well as on the Government of India's radars.

4. **Brand New Teacher Development:** This one has been in the news for sometime now with upskilling teachers and making them better prepared to address students' needs. Teacher development is being addressed through mandatory continuous learning programs by the government along with progressive schools implementing certifications on campus.

And last but not the least is a welcome trend for students in the Humanities and Arts domain!

5. **The Steady Rise of STEAM:** We all know of STEM i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as the acronym defining leading subjects in Science and Maths.

However, with time 'Arts' too has found its place in this acronym. With the emergence of disciplines like Design Thinking and Creativity as critical skills needed by educators, innovators and thought leaders, Arts has found its rightful place in the 21st century education system. [4]

Section - B

Evolution of International curricula in India in the last 5 years

Now we are about to give you a sneak peek into the leading Indian curricula starting off with the International curricula. Within the Indian education system, schools have now

adopted a more international approach with takers for International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International curricula increasing by the year. Let us know more about them.



Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate system of education also known as IB is a highly reputed educational board. It offers a number of well devised and structured educational curricula across grades. The curriculum is widely known for its International approach and imparting a global education to its students.

The programs offered by IB comprise of PYP (Primary Years Programme), MYP (Middle Years Programme) and the IBDP (IB Diploma Programme).

Now we have an interesting fact for you! Currently, the IB curriculum is being imparted to over 1.4 million students across the world with India being one of the high growth countries. Now that's a lot of takers for the International Baccalaureate across the world! [6]

Within India itself, there are over 161 IB schools with over a 40% growth every year from schools looking for a transition to IB. With just 93 schools across the country in 2013, the IB board has witnessed a growth of over 73% in numbers in 2018. This in itself signals an increase in confidence in the IB education system.



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**






Now, let us know a little bit about Cambridge Assessment International Education also known as the Cambridge International, which is the second most prominent International board in the country. The Cambridge International curriculum

is unique as it is based on encouraging and imbibing in-depth subject knowledge and aims at building the reasoning and decision making skills of its learners.

With over 55 subjects on offer, a Cambridge International affiliated school has that freedom to alter curriculum and allow students to opt for subject choices of their interest. Students of Grade 11 have the AS level exam and the A level for Grade 12. Now, did you know that the Cambridge International curriculum boasts of around 2.2 million students across the world?

Within India, the Cambridge International board has witnessed strong growth from 340 schools in 2012 to over 420 schools in 2017! That's like a 23% increment!

We will be learning more about the International curricula in detail in the upcoming modules.

|  Cambridge Assessment International Education International Baccalaureate |  Students Globally |  Students in India |  Schools in India |  Total countries in operation |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | 22Lakh | 67,381 | 420 | 160 |
| | 12.5Lakh | 3,906 | 146 | 147 |

Section - C

Changing trends in National curricula (CBSE, ICSE, State Boards)

Time to know a little bit about the National Curricula which comprises of three broad heads i.e. the CBSE, CISCE and the State boards.

First up, let us know more about CBSE.



CBSE, also known as the Central Board of Secondary Education, was established in 1962. This makes it as one of the oldest education boards in India! CBSE grants affiliations to both public and private schools and conducts the annual examinations for Grade 10 known as The All India Secondary School Examination and for Grade 12 known as the All India Senior School Certificate Examination.

The curriculum has also been going global with it being followed in countries like Malaysia, Japan, UAE, Singapore, Russia, to name a few.

CBSE is known for its major focus on Math and Sciences. It is considered the most suitable programme for students who aspire to study engineering and medicine in their higher education.

Over the years, the CBSE curriculum has focused on going beyond textual learning and has brought in progressive steps like the introduction of Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) for grades 6 to 10. This is aimed to test students throughout the year rather than a single exam at the end of the year. [8]

We will be exploring more about CBSE in our upcoming modules. For now let us know a little bit about CISCE also known as the ICSE.



Established in 1958, CISCE also known as the The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations is a national level private board. It initially began as an alternative to the American and the British systems but evolved into a comprehensive education system laying more emphasis on practice than theoretical knowledge.

The CISCE conducts examinations for Grade 10, called the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and also for Grade 12, called the Indian School Certificate (ISC). This curriculum is also followed globally in countries such as UAE, Singapore and Indonesia to name a few. The board has been evolving over the years and the latest change has been the introduction of additional subjects and compartmental exams for the students. The exam pattern has brought in a second chance for students to re-appear for a subject in case he or she doesn't do well in the first attempt.

It is time to wrap our journey of Module 1 with the State Board curricula in the country.

Let's have a look.

Each state in India has its own Board of Education and as such there are over 52 such sanctioned State Boards in the country with a state having more than one sanctioned state board.

In addition, the largest proportion of schools in India are affiliated to State Boards with over 1.3 crore students having appeared for various state board exams in 2017. Usually the boards differ in their approach towards education, but subjects remain more or less the same in the vernacular language. Among all the state boards, the boards of Maharashtra (in pic), Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh possess a higher reputation.



Most of the state boards hold exams at Grade 10 and 12 whereas a few conduct exams at the primary and mid-level as well. Some of the State Boards are incorporating progressive steps and broadening their approach towards education. The recently launched Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB) by the government of Maharashtra is all set to cater to non-English medium schools and will include 13 Marathi schools working under it.

That brings us to the end of Module 1. In the next module, we will take a deep dive into all the curriculums that are available to students in India.

Looking forward to seeing you in the next section!

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