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Relationship between Society and Education

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Abstract

In this unit you will learn what is society? And what is education? The network of relationship between society and education, as the title of this unit society and education, therefore, important focus on administered to understand the relationship between society and education. Education is one of the fundamental activities in modern society. Society and education are closely bound together and cannot be separated from each other. Our society in itself is an institution from where we learn our values and standards. Society builds a strong foundation for each and every one of us and it helps us to create an identity of being who we are. We learn from our surroundings and our experience which in turn let us grows and evolve to be a better personality; our society becomes the important facilitator of education. Education is the essential requirement of the group life of the modern human community, without education there is no group life in human existence.

Society and education have close interrelation since the beginning of society itself. Education prepares individual to perform different social roles in every society, on the other hand society and culture determines system of socialization and the nature of education to be communicate to the members of society.

Education is an important institution in most of the societies. It is very difficult to visualize any industrialised or modernised society without an education system. Educational sociologists analyse that large number of sections of educational systems interaction, class rooms and peer groups, school organisations and national and international systems of education. Sociologist appears education as one of the important institutions that constitutes society. The study of education in a wide framework of institutions found in every society, these institutions include family, religion, politics, economics and health, in addition to education.

Key Words: Etymology, Objective, Pedagogy, Personality, Process.

1.1 Meaning and definitions of education: Education performs a crucial role to a productive and high quality of life. It improves the superiority and value of every one's life, a good education eradicates all forms of discrimination, blind beliefs and social evils.

Education is the process of facilitating learning or the achievement of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits of all human beings of the society.

Education is a continuous process which brings positive changes in the human life and behaviour. We also define education as “a process of obtaining knowledge through study or transmitting knowledge by way of instructions or some other practical procedure.

The term education is a very common and a popular word. It has been elucidate by different thinkers in different ways. Some of them refer that it as attainment of knowledge skills and attitudes for the life. Some other says that education as formal schooling or lifelong learning. Let as look in to how the term education has evolved and some of the views of great thinkers that illustrate the concept and meaning of education.

Etymological meaning: Etymologically, the term education is derived from the different Latin word ‘**Educare**’ which means ‘to bring up’ or ‘to nourish’. According to few others the word education has originated from another Latin word ‘**educere**’ which means ‘to lead forth’, or ‘to come out’, the term ‘**educatum**’ which means ‘act of teaching’ or ‘training’, the ‘word ‘**educatus**’ which means ‘to bring up, to rear, to educate’, the term ‘**educatio**’ which means ‘a breeding, a bringing up, a rearing’, the Greek term ‘**pedagogy**’ is sometimes used for education. These meanings indicate that education attempts to nourish the good qualities and draw the best in every individual. Education tries to develop the innate or the inner potentialities of humans. According to the great writer of the Latin language Varro says that “the mid wife brings forth, the nurse brings up, the tutor trains, and the master teaches”.

Definition of education: Since the ancient time, education is judged as the right road to prosperity and progress. Various educationists’ thoughts from both Eastern and Western side have described the word ‘education’ according to the need of the time. Different educationists have given their views on the concept of education. Some important definitions are:

Mahatma Gandhi – “By education I mean all-round drawing out of the best in man-body, mind and spirit”.

Swami Vivekananda– “Education is the manifestation of device perfection already existing in man”.

Dr.Zakir Husain- “Education is the process of the individual mind, getting to its full possible development”.

Aristotle –“Education is the creation of a sound mind in a sound body”.

Plato –“Education is the capacity to feel pleasure and pain at right moment”.

John Dewey –“Education is the process of living through a continuous reconstruction of experiences”.

James Welton - in Encyclopaedia Britannica (11Th Edition) writes that “education consist in an attempt on the part of the adult members of human society to shape the development of the coming generation with its own ideals of life.”

F.J. Brown and J.S.Roucek – say that “education is the sum total of the experience which moulds the attitudes and determines the conduct of both the child and the adult”.

1.2 Types of education: Education can be broadly divided into two types, Formal education and Informal education. Formal education is an applied to training or education that is given a systematic or direct manner. Informal education represents one learns outside the classroom.

Both formal and informal education is equally important for the survival and development of a society. The relative importance of both forms of education must be analysed to understand how important they are in a given society.

Formal education: generally takes place in the premises of school, where a person may learn trade, academic or basic skills. Formal education is perceiving knowledge in a systematic way i.e. attending regular school and achieving academic objectives. It is a systematic learning in classroom.

Informal education: It is obtaining life skills and experiences in such a way that we learn many things openly. In informal education we do not learn things in any class and any systematic way; life values, manners, etiquette, justifying good or bad, family traditions, ethics and so... in a word every aspect we learn from nature and observations such education is called informal education.

1.3 Meaning and definitions of society: Society is a “web of social relationship”. These relations are fundamental for understanding human behaviour and various institutions of the human society. Individual is the fundamental component of the society. The interaction of individuals with each other gives birth to group life. These social groups interact with each other and develop relationship with each other which leads to a society. Within the society there are patterns and groupings on the basis of likeness and differences, likeness creates a chain of relations among the individuals having similarity in one are more conditions.

Consciousness of kind is developed and the people of similar interests are joined together in the formation of various groups and categories. Without difference in cultural conditions of a society the system of give and take relationship creates reciprocal roles in human life. These differences lead to variety of human behaviours and social division of labour and the process of specialization are developed.

The term society has been derived from the Latin word ‘**socius**’ which means a companion association or fellowship. It is because man always lives in the company of his fellow beings. The term used to describe a relation or interaction among group, the concept of society defined by a large number of thinkers, sociologists, social anthropologists and other social scientists. Auguste Comte marked society as a social organism possessing a harmony of structure and function. Emile Durkheim regarded society as a reality in its own right. Talcott parson says that society is a total complex of human relationships in so far as they grow out of the action in terms of means-end relationships intrinsic or symbolic. G H Mead conceived society as an exchange of gestures which involves the use of symbols.

Definition of Society: Some popular definitions by well known Sociologists

According to **Ginsberg**, “A society is a collection of individuals united by certain relations or modes of behaviour which mark them off from others, who do not enter into those relations or who differ from them in behaviour.”

According to **F.H. Giddings**, “Society is the union itself, the organization, the sum formal relations in which associating individuals are bound together.”

According to **MacIver and Page**, “Society is a system of usages and procedures, authority and mutual aid, of many groupings and divisions, of controls of human behaviours and of liberties.”

1.4 Society and Education: “Society could not survive without education” education is commonly seen as the base of the society which leads economic wealth, social prosperity and political security. It is a significant aspect of development of any modern society and most important measure of comprehensive growth of any area. Emile Durkheim highlight the role of education in the protection of society and culture, especially it is very vital in complex societies where families and other primary groups are not fully furnished to prepare the young for adult world that is expected by huge society. John Dewey wrote mainly on this subject and his major contributions are most relevant here, i.e. “The School and Society” -1899 and “Democracy and Education”-1916. He is stating that “School is a miniature form and reflexion of society”. The final goal of school and schooling process is to promote the widening of social progress and extension of democracy. Some other theorist has been contributed and discussed the relationship between society and education, for example, Leo Tolstoy, Antonio Gramsci, Paulo Freire, Ivan Illich, Pierre Bourdieu, Rabindranatha Tagore, Radhakrishnan S, M K Gandhi and some others.

The relationship between the concepts of society and education is one that can be a challenge for Social Scientists, Anthropologists, and Sociologists. Many of them typically argue there is no society without education. So that education happens first and most important than society. Some others advocate that a society should exist before the education. Other thinkers expressed that education is a mirror of the society and is shaped by the society. So that the society origin first and is most important than education. Despite the difference of opinion reinforce by one group of thinkers or another group of scholars, there is a remarkable oneness or consent that society and education are interrelated. This lesson will not argue over the philosophical viewpoints about whether society comes before education or whether education comes first, alternatively this lesson emphasis on the nature of the interrelations between society and education.

It is focus on the evolution of educational system through different sociological theories, the economic, political, social and other conditions that mould the mission, structure, curriculum and industrial practices of educational institutions at the national and international levels. This lesson examines the interrelation between society and education through the different concepts and theories related to social stratification and mobility, social reproduction, education and development, social transformation as well as distinction in educational result based on gender, ethnicity and race, and socio-economic status.

Many sociologists have perceived that there is an important relationship between society and education. They are inter-connecting internally and also externally. Therefore education system reflects a society's and intellectual values. Ottaway (1980) defined society as the entire extent of social relations of people living in a particular geographical territory and having a feeling of belonging to the same kind of group. In all societies either developed or developing, complex or primitive there is always an education system. This system are not uniform, there is no any two societies are similar. So that the system of education is differ from one society to another and their contents, aims and techniques also differ from society to society.

Sociological tendency in education made by various thinkers in the field of education to argue and categorised the interrelations between society and education. Education was examined as a sub-system of the larger society. The nature of society and social changes taking place must influence the system of education also. It was, emphasized that these social changes and emerging social needs must be rejected in the theory and practice of education. This point was great extent highlight by Dewey in his book "the School and Society". He said that while proposing to bring about a change in education the social point of new should always be kept in mind apart from it will be considered only an arbitrary fad. "Education for the society" emerged as the focus of educational thought.

1.5 Social functions of education: Education is an aspect of socialisation which involves the attainment of knowledge and learning of skills. It shapes our beliefs and moral values through a systematic transmission. Education is said to be an integral function of society. John Dewey viewed that being a social need it performs significant functions in the society.

(1) Education as a means of cultural transmission: Human beings are nation building creature. The culture makes a distinction with other creatures. Every society has its own cultural heritage which they preserve and transmit to one generation to another. The most important role of education is to transform the culture, knowledge, Tradition, skill to the new members of the society. Therefore culture is the typical association between education and society. Culture is a comprehensive word which includes all things of human society. British social anthropologist E.B. Tylor explain "culture as a complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, art, law, morals, customs and any other capabilities and habits acquired by men as a member of society".

According to Emile Durkheim, the main function of education is the transmission of society's norms and values. A vital task for all societies is to bring close together a mass of individuals in to a united whole. The individuals must have a sense of belonging to society. Durkheim holds that education provides the necessary link between individuals and society by indoctrinating with the values and ideas, traditions and thoughts of the community.

(2) Reduce inequality and disparity: Education provides us knowledge and education plays an outstanding role in society by solving its issues. Through the education one can gain knowledge and be involved in the process of empowerment of the society. Indian

traditional education system was not open to all Category people of the society. It was support to elite class with religious purpose. Therefore system of education has created socio-economic inequality in the society. After the independence, constitutional provisions were changed this elite nature and religious form of education.

(3) Social mobility and change: Social mobility is the movement of individuals or groups of people in social position in the social hierarchy of the society. Education is the most important factor of social mobility.

“No man should bring children in to the world that is a willing to persevere to the end in their nurture and education. If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life. The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life”. - **Plato**

Education is important for every individual in a nation. It plays a vital role to change the states of a nation. No nation could bring a regime change in it unless its people are educated enough to meet the challenges. It improves the quality of their lives and leads to extensive social benefits to individuals and society. Education raises people’s productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurship and technological advances. Hence education plays a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and also improving income distribution in society.

(4) Education is an instrument of socialisation: The process of an individual’s socialisation is the process of education. The meaning of socialisation refers to a process in which an individual accepts a given set of cultural norms and becomes a member of a given society. The principal function of education occupy in socializing individuals.

Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist has explained the role of education in socialization process of child as “education is the influence exercised by adult generation on those that are not yet ready for social life, according to him education is a socialization of the younger generation.

Most important function of the school is protection of civilization and culture of mankind. Every society has own traditions, customs, religion, norms, and art, which has inherited from ancestors. In this process of socialisation school help us to transforms the cultural values and behaviour patterns of the society to his younger generation.

Socialization and education involve selective learning, which indicate systematic reinforcement of certain behaviour patterns and roles, socialization consists of progressive learning of a series of roles.

(5) Development of new knowledge: Knowledge development can be defined as “a process convey out at strategic operational and tactical levels of command to provide the decision making with a comprehensive understanding of complex environments.” One of the major functions of the education is obtain knowledge to achieve success in life. Through the continuous education we develop new knowledge or incorporation to the existing knowledge to fulfil our new necessity.

Education has been assigned new global importance; it is now the vehicle of choice for nations seeking to increase their competitiveness in an expanding economy. In developing nations education has also been linked to goals to reduce poverty, knowledge represents a factor of economic and social development.

There is no significant difference between education and knowledge both are correlated to each other. In fact one leads to another one, it is a process of gaining knowledge for some useful application whereas knowledge is facts obtained from good education. “Education is knowledge” and “knowledge is power” knowledge is change, knowledge is progress, knowledge is everything”

(6) Education and individual development: Education is important for every one individual’s progress in their life. They provide teaching skills that develop socially physically and socially for their later life. Higher education helps in preserving well being society which develops health care professionals, educated health care consumers and preserving healthy population.

Education should furnish opportunities for the complete development of individual’s talents and capable interest and abilities. Through this education the teacher seeks to open every one child’s talents and capabilities and develop their personalities. Therefore they can improve their lives and transform their societies in future.

Education is an important aid to the personality development. It helps the development of the qualities of an individual’s such as physical, mental and emotional make-up as well as his temperament and character what is called personality. The process of education assists the individual to become the sort of person who can make his own decisions. Modern methods of education play a good deal of attention to this way of learning.

(7) Development of new social patterns: The present days the society is reshaping very rapidly due to the development of technological advancement and communication. Therefore together with maintenance of orthodox values, modern values, social patterns need to be developed where;

- Citizens placed in their own cultures and still open to other culture are made.
- Knowledge is move forward in such a way that economic progress moves hand in hand with responsible management of the human and physical environment.
- Citizens who can evaluate information and forecast future outcomes are progressed in brief who can take part in decision-making.
- Who have the ability to find out different solution and evaluate them are trained- those who are trained in problem solving.

Conclusion: Education conveys many social functions in society to transform culture and knowledge. This alone makes human beings different than other animals of the earth; society has plays harmful role in the process of education. Society and education have close relationship since the beginning of society. Education is a means of cultural transformation from one generation to another, The relationships between these two important concepts

are so powerful that it is impossible to distinguish them because one influences the other. Educational institutions are micro-societies, which mirror the whole society. The systems of education in any particular society develop the child for future life. It inculcates in him those skills that will permit him to live a helpful and responsible life and contribute to the development of the society. Education is a social phenomenon that does not take place in isolation; it takes place in the society and this process is usually from the family.

1.7 Suggested readings:

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