



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Sociology

THE ROLE OF SOCIETY IN PROMOTING THE EDUCATION

KEY WORDS: Society, Education, Socialization, Community, Development, Equality.

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ABSTRACT

Education and society are deeply interconnected, society plays the pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape and provides the framework, values, and resources within which education operates, while education prepares individuals to participate effectively in social life. This paper examines the role of society in education by exploring how social institutions, culture, economy, and community involvement contribute to educational development. It also discusses how education functions as a tool for social change and development. Society influences education by shaping values, norms, and expectations that encourage learning and intellectual growth. Families provide the first foundation of education by instilling discipline, motivation, and moral values in children. Educational institutions transmit knowledge and skills necessary for social and economic development, while communities support learning through cultural practices, awareness programs, and social support systems. Thus, society acts as a driving force in promoting education, ensuring social progress, equality, and sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

Education is not an isolated process that occurs only within classrooms. It is a social institution influenced by the norms, values, and expectations of society. From family upbringing to government policies, society plays a crucial role in shaping educational goals, content, and outcomes. Understanding the role of society in education helps explain how individuals are prepared to become responsible citizens and productive members of their communities. Education is a vital social institution that prepares individuals to participate effectively in society. It is deeply influenced by social values, cultural norms, economic conditions, and political ideologies. Society determines what kind of education is needed and how it should be delivered. In turn, education helps maintain social order, promote social change, and support national development. Understanding the role of society in education is essential for improving educational quality and equity.

Education is one of the most important social institutions through which society preserves its values, culture, and knowledge. It is not merely the transmission of academic content but a process of socialization that prepares individuals to live effectively within society. Every society designs its educational system according to its needs, aspirations, and ideology. As society changes, education also evolves to meet new social, economic, and technological demands. The relationship between society and education is dynamic and reciprocal. Society influences education through its norms, customs, economic conditions, and political structures, while education contributes to the development, stability, and progress of society. Understanding this relationship is essential for improving educational systems and addressing social challenges such as inequality, unemployment, and social injustice.

Society as the Foundation of Education

Society refers to a group of individuals living together with shared norms, values, traditions, and social institutions. It provides the environment in which individuals grow, learn, and interact. Society establishes rules and expectations that guide human behavior. Society determines the aims and objectives of education. What a society values—such as democracy, equality, technological advancement, or cultural preservation—is reflected in its educational system. For example, industrial societies emphasize technical and vocational education, while democratic societies promote critical thinking and civic education.

Educational institutions are established to meet social needs. Schools and universities function as agents of socialization, teaching students accepted behaviors, norms, and moral values necessary for social harmony.

Education as an Agent of Social Change

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Education is a continuous social process that aims at the all-round development of individuals. It includes formal, informal, and non-formal modes of learning. Education helps individuals acquire knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for social life.

Education not only reflects society but also transforms it. By promoting knowledge, skills, and critical thinking, education empowers individuals to challenge social inequalities and contribute to progress. It plays a key role in reducing social discrimination, promoting gender equality, and fostering innovation. Educated citizens are more likely to participate in democratic processes and contribute positively to social development.

Modernity and Education: Modernity, characterized by technological advancements, globalization, and shifting social norms, profoundly impacts education in the contemporary era. Technological innovations have revolutionized teaching and learning methodologies, enabling personalized learning experiences, online education platforms, and digital resources. Globalization has increased cultural exchange and interconnectedness, prompting educators to incorporate global perspectives and intercultural competencies into curricula. Moreover, rapid societal changes necessitate the cultivation of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and digital literacy to prepare students for an uncertain future. Overall, the relationship between society, culture, and modernity shapes the aims, methods, and outcomes of education. Recognizing and understanding this dynamic interplay is essential for designing educational systems that are responsive to the diverse needs and ambition of individuals and communities in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Role of Family and Community

The family is the first social institution that influences a child's education. Parents shape attitudes toward learning, discipline, and ambition. A supportive family environment enhances academic achievement, while lack of support can hinder educational progress. Communities also contribute by providing resources, cultural knowledge, and informal learning opportunities. Community participation in schools—through parent-teacher associations, local leadership, and social organizations—strengthens the quality and relevance of education.

The community provides social experiences beyond the family. Schools operate within communities and are influenced by local culture, traditions, and needs. Community participation in education—through parent-teacher associations, local governance, and social organizations

enhances educational quality and relevance.

Cultural Influence on Education

Culture plays a central role in determining educational content and teaching methods. Language, customs, traditions, beliefs, and moral values are transmitted through education. Schools serve as carriers of cultural heritage, ensuring continuity from one generation to another. At the same time, education promotes cultural understanding, tolerance, and national integration in diverse societies.

Economic Role of Society in Education

Economic conditions significantly affect educational development. Societies with strong economies can invest more in schools, infrastructure, technology, and teacher training. Poverty limits access to education, leading to issues such as dropout rates, child labor, and inequality. Education also contributes to economic development by producing skilled human resources. The economic condition of society significantly affects education. Wealthier societies can invest more in educational infrastructure, technology, and teacher training. Conversely, poverty often limits access to quality education.

Political and Social Structure

Political ideology and governance shape education through policies, laws, and reforms. Governments decide educational objectives, curricula, compulsory education laws, and funding. Democratic societies emphasize equality, critical thinking, and citizenship education, while other systems may focus on discipline or technical skills. Political systems also shape education through laws, policies, and funding. Governments decide curricula, compulsory education laws, and equal opportunity measures; ensuring education serves national and social development goals.

Challenges in the Relationship between Society and Education

Despite its importance, the relationship between society and education faces challenges such as social inequality, cultural bias, and unequal access to resources. Discrimination based on class, gender, or ethnicity can limit educational opportunities. Addressing these issues requires collective social responsibility and inclusive educational policies.

Society provides the comprehensive structure within which education operates. Social structures, such as economic systems, political ideologies, and demographic trends, influence educational policies, funding mechanisms, and access to resources. Societal values and norms shape educational goals and priorities, determining what knowledge is considered valuable and worth transmitting to future generations. For example, in societies that prioritize economic competitiveness, education may emphasize STEM subjects and vocational training, while in societies valuing social justice, education may focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

John Dewey (1938): Dewey's seminal work, "Experience and Education," explores the essential role of society and culture in shaping educational philosophy and practice. He emphasizes the importance of experiential learning and advocates for a curriculum that reflects the lived experiences of students within their social and cultural contexts. P

Pierre Bourdieu (1977): In "Cultural Reproduction and Social Reproduction," Bourdieu examines how societal structures and cultural capital perpetuate social inequalities within educational systems. He argues that cultural norms and practices favoring dominant social groups often disadvantage marginalized communities, perpetuating cycles of inequality.

Paulo Freire (1970): Freire's groundbreaking work,

"Pedagogy of the Oppressed," challenges traditional educational models and advocates for critical pedagogy rooted in dialogue and praxis. He critiques the banking model of education, which he argues perpetuates oppressive power dynamics, and proposes transformative approaches that empower learners to accurately engage with their social and cultural realities.

Michael Apple (1995): In "Education and Power," Apple explores the intersection of education, politics, and culture, highlighting how educational institutions serve as sites of social reproduction and resistance. He critiques the neutrality of education and argues that curriculum and pedagogy reflect dominant cultural values and power structures, perpetuating social hierarchies.

Sylvia Wynter (2003): Wynter's essay, "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/ Power/ Truth/ Freedom," deconstructs the colonial legacy of education and its impact on cultural identity and knowledge production. She challenges Eurocentric epistemologies and advocates for decolonizing education to recognize and value diverse ways of knowing and being.

Zygmunt Bauman (2000): Bauman's "Liquid Modernity" discusses the fluid nature of contemporary society and its implications for education. He argues that rapid social and technological changes require educational systems to adapt and prepare learners for uncertain futures, emphasizing flexibility, creativity, and lifelong learning.

CONCLUSION

In general sense, whatever that we need, whatever that we require, that everything would be obtained from society. In the words of John Dewey, whatever that we need, whatever that we require, we get from the society. He also considered school is miniature society.

In the words of Aristotle, "Man is a social animal. No man can be survived without the need of the society. The correlation between education and society like a flower and its fragrance, fruit and its juice, body and its soul, temple and its God or Goddess.

The correlation between education and society compared like two sides of the same coin. There is no education without the society. Meanwhile, there is no society upliftment without education.

Society is considered as "Real University", "Renowned University", because, it teaches us anything and everything. Anybody and everybody in the society learn until there last breathing or as long as they living in the society in such a way as long as society remaining.

Society is also considered as "Real laboratory" through which by the committing of practicals we may learn so many things. For example, basic elements such as beliefs, sentiments, values, norms, morality, would be learnt by the imitation and observation of the society. Socialization process also occurs through the imitation and observation of the society.

In the words of Albert Bandhura, "Anything and everything would be learnt by the imitation and observation of the society which is called what we called it as "Social Learning".

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