ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Sociology

THE SOCIAL AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF A NATION

KEY WORDS: Education system, Factors, Nation

Dr. Savidi Balaji Senior Faculty in College of Education

ABSTRACT

The Education system of any nation is always affected and influenced by some ultimate factors that shape the whole education system in some kind of formation and also lead to certain direction. The present article is about the factors affecting the education system of a nation. It narrates how various factors such as historical and cultural factors, aims of nation, political, social and scientific factors and educational planning play a significant role in developing and extending education in a country. The author has read different books related to the development of education, analyzed the major ideas and derived these factors. The factors in this article include Historical and Cultural factors, Nation's Life-Perspectives, Goals and Aims, Political, Social and Scientific factors and the Education Planning. These factors in its major form include various sub-factors that can extensively affect the education system.

INTRODUCTION

The education system of a nation is always affected by some particular factors, i.e. the National identity, its historical and cultural backgrounds, the country's political, economical, social, scientific and administrative factors, etc. These factors especially affect on the educational planning, education administration, expansion of education to the remotest areas of the country, opportunities of getting enough education for all without the differences of castes, religions and gender, the programmes of awareness and importance of education and the thinking of people who are connected to the system of education directly and indirectly. With their greatest impact of all these aspects, these key factors show certain directions to the education system of a nation. These directions can be useful in making newer policies and regulations for education according to the vision of the nation and its abilities on the whole.

Historical and Cultural Factors

The historical and cultural factors are those which have been affected the education system for the long-long years. These factors affect the development of education done throughout the years and also show the impact of other nation's education system on it. The historical and cultural factors are :

Democratic Decentralization

Democratic decentralization is necessary in education as it links the people with the educational administration and management. It makes individual free from boundaries. It emphasizes on equal opportunities of education for all. The best of democratic decentralization is seen in U.S.A. where the educational institutes are administrated by the representatives of people. It has played an important role in the enrichment and development of education in U.S.A.

Extension of Education

This historical factor shows the progress of education. In its root, it involves compulsory education, flows of progress in education, doorways of knowledge, development of art, science and technology education and investments for this. It also indicates the political, economic and social development of the country. Allthese have been affecting the extension of education for many years. The extension of education can be done through the active participation of people, teachers and educationists in education system. In England, 95% children of school age were recorded in the decade of 1970 – '80, which are notable numbers. In Germany, in the year of 1901, 98.46% children of school age were recorded. In comparison, the extension of education in India was noticed very slow.

Development of Industrial and Technical Education

The tradition of industrial and technical education is very old and has been developing for a long time. In olden times, the explosion of knowledge began the scientific and industrial revolution in many countries. As a result, new flows of development were included in education. It extended the institutes of industrial and technical education in different countries. In Japan, the industrial and professional education was given after the primary education. There was also a system of apprenticeship in the factories. In Germany, in the year of 1973, about 70% students were recorded in the professional institutes at the level of secondary school education.

Foreign Impact

Foreign impact involves the new flows of innovations, new techniques, technologies, methods, new practices and thinking in education. It has been impacted on the patterns of the educational institutes, medium of education, teaching methods and approaches and different educational programmes. The education system of Philippines has been affected very much by the education system of U.S.A. It is due to the interest of American Governors in the education system of Philippines that has played a major role in enriching and developing it.

The Factors of Conventionality and Inequality

The factor of conventionality puts hindrances in bringing innovations and changes in education. It prevents the speedy and revolutionary improvements. Holding of old traditions affect the educational researches and proper implementation of programmes. On the other side, the factor of inequality among people produces backwardness in education. Throughout the ancient times, the backward people have been remained omitted because of it. It is a major obstacle in the way of educational progress. The nations like China, Germany and India have suffered many difficulties in the development of education because of these cultural factors.

Nation's Life - perspectives – Goals and Aims

A nation should have its life-perspectives to prepare a planning for the long-term development in education. Nation's life-perspectives involve many goals and aims of education which are discussed here:

Equal Educational Opportunities for all

Everyone has natural right of being educated. Everyone should be equally benefited by education so that he can develop his inner capabilities and can contribute to the national development in the long-term. It is, therefore, necessary to put a full stop mark on the social, economic and cultural erosion of one person by another.

Education for Individual Freedom and Human Welfare

Education is for making the individual free from bondages, developing his personality and making him productive by mind and harmonious with others. It develops great morality and intellectual power within him so that he can contribute to social prosperity and welfare as well as can help in developing himself and others, too.

Innovations and changes by Education

This goal of education is very essential to achieve as it gives new form and direction to the social and economic development. Not only education is necessary in bringing the changes, but the human endeavors are equally important, too. Modernization and reconstruction of industry, changes in life-style, freedom from ignorance, acceptance of new values, involvement of newer technologies in education, etc. need both the help of education and people's contribution.

Social, Economic and Industrial Development by Education

The balanced development in all these three factors makes the way for the national development. Education helps in developing the maximum capabilities in human to give services in the development of society, family and the nation. The economic and industrial development can be possible by the strengths and competencies of people. Education helps in developing and enhancing the national income and prosperity. It does modernization of the industries by newer technologies. Moreover, education rouses longing for economic development in people.

To get Satisfactory Quality and to fulfill the Needs of Education

Fulfillment of the educational needs and quality satisfaction should go in one way. To develop the positive attitude among the people towards education, to give equal opportunities of education to all, to expand primary education, to develop scientific, industrial and technology education are the major needs for the educational growth. These needs are to be fulfilled keeping in mind its satisfactory quality.

National Reconstruction

This is the principal objective of education. To achieve this, it is urgent to re-evaluate the role of education in the whole programme of national development; to identify the changes needed in the existing system of education and to prepare a programme of educational development based on them. It is also necessary to implement this programme with determination and vigour.

Political, Social and Scientific Factors

The impact of political, social and scientific factors on education plays an important role in the development of education. These are given here in detail:

Political Factors

The political factors involve the impact of the democratic political system and national identity that bring necessary improvements and changes.

Impact of the Democratic Political System

This factor plays a major role in the development of education. Equal opportunity of education for all is the main ideal of the democratic political system. It mainly emphasizes on the democratic decentralization of the education system. It also advocates the administration of the individual schools on democratic norms. It emphasizes that the education system should be directly responsible to the people.

National Identity

A nation should have its own identity for the development of education. It works for the reconstruction of education. When India wasn't an independent country, there wasn't much progress in education. But after gaining the independence, in only 26 years, education in India had reached to the level of development. In the year of 1950, only 15.1% students of 5 – 24 age group were getting education which increased at 33.4% in the year of 1968. It shows the impact of the national identity.

Social Factor

Social factor deals with the social conditions and various impediments that hinder the social changes through education. The major social factor that affects the education system is –

Impact of the Social Impediments on Education

For many years, the education system has been affected by the social impediments such as partiality in providing educational opportunities, lack of speedy changes and innovations, unemployment and less rate of youth in higher education. All these hinder the educational expansion and growth. In America and England, there are little social impediments. It is the reason why education is much developed there.

Scientific Factors

The scientific factors play a key role in the development of education. These factors are mainly related with the scientific and technology education, educational researches and the development of education through scientific development. These factors are :

Scientific and Technology Education

The proper management and development of the science and technology education make a way for the social reconstruction. It changes the knowledge, attitudes and values of people. It also makes the life of people more comfortable.

Educational Researches

The development of science provides an insight for educational researches. It provides the knowledge which helps in the educational researches about different subjects like curriculum development, the system of education, experiments in education, educational achievement of students, etc. The countries like U.S.A., England, Japan and Germany are the leaders in these kinds of educational researches because they are developed in science and technology.

Science and Educational Development

Science and technology facilitate the process of education. Newer technologies have provided easy and speedy learning materials and instruments. New methods of learning are involved such as programme learning, use of television, teaching machines, etc. The curriculum of science and technology education, higher education in the form of technology education, new trends of knowledge, poly-technique education, etc. have played an important role in the growth of education.

Educational Planning

The educational planning includes the short-term and long-term projections prepared about the growth of education. There are three factors of educational planning – role of the five years planning, planning of educational programmes and the national, economic and social development through educational planning. All the three factors that affect the education system in many ways are discussed here :

Role of the Five-years Planning

The five-year planning involves all types of planning for the growth of education. It shows the possible annual increase in the admission of students both in schools and colleges, the rate of teachers and investments in education. In U.S.A., long-term projections are prepared for the development of education. In Tanzania, there are ten-year planning for the development of education. This planning mainly concerns with the teacher-training, technology education and primary education. In India, the first five-years planning came in 1951. India have achieved notable progress through five-year planning.

Planning and Development in Education

Planning is needed in education to know the necessities of the coming years. It helps in improving the quality standard of village schools, especially of primary and secondary education. In education planning, removal of illiteracy, investment in education, quality improvement, objectives of

education, examination system, etc. are the main areas which are needed to be emphasized.

National, Economic and Social Development through Educational Planning

The educational planning helps in creating society-oriented education system and in making the development of industries. It creates a balanced economic system. It helps in developing agriculture, commerce, healthcare, finance services, etc. Economic development and national income can be increased according to the educational planning and its proper management and implementation. It is very important to make these planning included to the national and social development planning.

CONCLUSION

All the above factors cover many significant areas and issues seen in the education system of any nation. These factors show a great impact on the throughout development of education. Every factor is important in itself for its impact on the education system. Some factors are responsible for the expansion of education; some make a way for the new flows coming in education – science and technical education, and some factors present goals and aims of education which can be seen in any nation's life-perspectives. There are also certain factors which show the impact of particular political system, scientific advancement, social changes and developmental planning on the education system.

REFERENCES

1. Aggarwal, J. C. (1993). Landmarks in the History of Modern Indian Education. Second Edition. New Delhi : Vikas publishing House Pvt. Ltd.
2. Sharma, Y.K. (2004). Comparative Education, a comparative study of Education Systems. First Edition. New Delhi : Kanishka Publishers.
3. d[sie, Fnv>t a[m. {1973}. t&lniRmk (SxN {p\Ym aivZ(_i}. amdivid : y&(nv(s<T) g\>Y(nmi<N bi[D<.pT[l, a[m. a[m. {1988}. Birt)y (SxNp>ci[n) a[k zlk {p\Ym aivZ(_i}. amdivid : b). a[s. Sih p\kiSn.