UNIT-1 : MEANING AND CONCEPT OF EDUCATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

1.1 Learning Objectives

1.2 Introduction

1.3 Meaning and Definitions of Education

1.3.1 Meaning of Education

1.3.2 Definitions of Education

1.4 Process of Education

1.5 Types of Education

1.6 Scope of Education

1.7 Let Us Sum Up

1.8 Further Readings

1.9 Answer to Check Your Progress

1.10 Model Questions

1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- define education
- explain the meaning of education
- classify the types of education
- identify the meaning, concept and importance of formal, informal and non-formal education
- discuss the scope of education

1.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit introduces us to some basic concepts of education. This includes the meaning of education, different types of education and scope of education. As a learner, we must understand what the term education basically implies, why education is important,as well as, what is the relevance and importance of different types of education.The term education has covered a huge range of ideas. Education is a dynamic process and functions in society.

people at all times. Various educational theorists have tried to define it according to their own philosophy of life. According to the 'Rig Veda', education makes a man self-reliant and selfless. The 'Upanishads' expresses that 'education's end product is salvation'. Education is a source of illumination, leading us correctly in the various spheres of life. Philosophical outlook of different thinkers opined that knowledge is the third eye of man which gives him an insight into all affairs, teaching him how to act. An un-educated person is like an animal without tail and horns. Education is a controlling grace to the young, consolation to the old, wealth to the poor and an ornament to the rich. In real sense, education is a ***realm*** of learning, a process of experience. Through education and the various experiences, we gather knowledge and skills as well as develop our attitudes, values towards our life. These in turn mould our behaviour and help us to adjust in the present day society.

Narrow Meaning of Education

In a narrow sense, education means schooling or formal instruction which is imparted within the four walls of the classroom. It starts when the child enters in the institution of education and ends when the child completes his studies or leaves the educational institution. In this sense, a man is said to be educated if he passes examinations and receives some degrees and diplomas from School, College or University. In the narrow sense, education is deliberate, purposeful and planned effort on the part of the teacher to impart some amount of knowledge with the help of a definite curriculum. This type of education is imparted by teachers to students. S. S. Mackenzi, the famous educational thinker, remarked that "In narrow sense, it may be taken to mean any conscious, directed effort to develop and cultivate powers."Thus the narrow meaning of education basically implies that it is :



Realm: kingdom, field of activity

- just a formal type of education.
- time bound
- fixed curriculum based.
- teacher-centered.

skill, mind and character etc. specially by formal schooling."

- **According to Plato,** "Education is the capacity to feel pleasure and pain at the right moment. It develops in the body and in the soul of the pupil all the beauty and all the perfection of which he is capable of"
- **Aristotle** the renowned disciple of Plato defined education as one that "develops man's faculty especially his mind so that he may be able to enjoy the contemplation of supreme truth, goodness and beauty in which perfect happiness essentially consists" He briefly stated that education is "the creation of a sound mind in a sound body".
- **John Adams,** a modern English educationist defines education as "a conscious and deliberate process in which one personality acts upon another in order to modify the development of that other by the communication and manipulation of knowledge."
- **According to John Dewey** the famous American Educationist, "Education is the process of living through a continuous reconstruction of experiences. It is the development of all those capacities in the individual which will enable him to control his environment and fulfill his possibilities."
- **Another famous educational philosopher T. P. Nunn** said "Education is the complete development of individuality so that he makes an original contribution to human life according to the best of his capacity."
- **According to Thomson Godfrey,** "Education is the influence of the environment on the individual with a view to producing a permanent change in the habits of behaviour of thought and of attitude."
- **According to Raymont,** "Education is a process of development from infancy to maturity, the process by which he adopts himself gradually in various ways to his physical, social and spiritual environment."
- **Regarding education, Mahatma Gandhi said :** "By education, I mean an all round drawing out of the best in child and man, body,mind and spirit."

Bi-Polar Process of Education

Education is a two-way process. Sir John Adams has described the process of education as a bi-polar process. Here, the personality of the teacher influences the students in all aspects. The teacher and the student being the two poles, the resultant process of their co-operative effort is education. Teachers, impart education and students acquire education. Without teachers, students cannot learn anything; on the other hand, if there are no students in the classroom, whom would the teacher teach? Bi-polar process of education is not only conscious but also a deliberate one.

Tripolar Process of Education

Today, education is a three-way process. Education involves an interaction among the educands (students), the educator and the social environment. The teacher tries to develop the personality of the student in the light of the needs of the society. Here, both the teacher and the taught make efforts for achieving the purpose or destination in a conducive environment.

Education a Dynamic Process

Education is a dynamic process and it helps the individual in their progress. Education reconstructs a new and better social pattern according to changing needs of time, place and society. Education in a sense is related to time, place and social change. The process of education helps the individual in their development as well as in the development of the society.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What is Education? From Where is the term 'Education' derived?

.....

.....

.....

Q 2: Mention Reden's definition on the term of Education.

.....

.....

confined to classroom activities but it also includes those activities outside the classroom which are consciously and deliberately planned.To make it more clear, let us discuss its basic features in a precise way.

- It has a pre-determined goal.
- teacher plays central role
- it has fixed curriculum
- it is time bound
- it is examination oriented.
- After completion of this type of education the learner gets a degree, diploma and certificate.

Informal Education :

After getting an idea about the formal education, it is essential that we know about the informal type of education. Our life is full of activities. All these things and activities teach us something. For example: when a child touches the fire he gets burnt. From this, he learns not to touch the burning fire.This is called the education of life which one gets through the informal experiences. Informal education is incidental education and it has no predetermined plan. Informal education is that type of education which we get by living with others in the society. Informal education takes place both consciously and unconsciously. It has no systematic procedure. It is casual and gained through daily experience, activity and work. This type of education is not confined to a place and a fixed time schedule. Informal education starts from birth and goes on till death. Informal education is not imparted by any specialised agencies established for the purpose. Here, neither the student nor the teacher is conscious of the process. There is no prescribed course for learning, no fixed time table and no formal ways of education.To be more precise, the main features of non-formal education are:

- it is not pre-planned
- it is incidental
- it is life-long process
- there is no fixed curriculum, no specific method of teaching.
- there is no examination, no certificate, degree and diploma.

Non-formal Education :

Non-formal education is a system of education which is given outside the formal system. Non-formal education is mainly for the de-institutionalised students willing to pursue education. Non-formal education is an alternative system of education. This type of education has flexibility in content, organisation, methods, duration, timing and place of education to suit the different needs of various people.

According to '*Coombs*' and '*Ahmad*', non-formal education is an "organised systematic educational activity carried outside the frame work of the established formal system, whether operating separately or an important feature of some broader activity that is intended to serve identifiable learning, and learning objectives". Formal education is meant for a selected few of a definite age group, but non-formal education is intended for all ages and sections of the society. Non-formal education embraces all who aspire to learn. It fulfils different objectives like imparting knowledge, developing different skills and promoting value among the people. In non-formal education, there is an element of consciousness. Non-formal education is meant for school drop outs employed or working person, the house wives, retired person and many others who are looking for information, knowledge or training without a degree or diploma.Thus non-formal education basically includes:

- Open learning
- Postal tution
- Open university
- Correspondence course
- Seminars, radio, television etc.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 4: Through which institutions formal education is imparted?

.....

.....

.....

education is limitless and very wide. Education is a process of development. It is a process of all round development of physical, mental, moral and spiritual capacities of an individual. It is a complete development of a man's personality. The scope of education is related to the manner, values, morals, tastes, skills, attitudes etc. Within the scope of education, many subjects are included. It draws only functional material from subjects like Philosophy of Education, Educational Sociology, Educational Psychology, History of Education, Comparative Education, Educational Problems, Educational administration and organization, teaching techniques etc. Besides these subject matters, there are some other fields which are also included by the scope of education. New subjects are being developed in the field of education and their study has widened the scope of education. The present field of education used by specialists in order to make education more progressive. Education not only preserves but also promotes culture and creates conditions for a better world order and a better civilization. It is now rightly felt that the new world of peace, freedom, justice and safety for all can be achieved only by those who are moved by the great moral and spiritual ideals which true education upholds and propogates. True education is that education which shows us the way as how to live a corporate, useful and meaningful life in the present day rapidly changing and amazingly complex world. Human life is full of struggle. We must build our education system in a way that can solve our present day problem of this materialistic world. Education must contribute towards making our life happy prosperous, progressive and civilized.



LET US KNOW

- The scope of education is limitless and very vast.
- The present field of education needs specialists in order to make education more progressive.

- Education has great importance for the allround development of the child.
- There are so many thinkers who have given their own opinion on education. Among them, Plato, Aristotle, John Dewey, Raymont and Mahatma Gandhi are the significant ones.
- Education is the vehicle of past culture and it carry the present culture and preserves it for the future generation.
- Education is a tripolar process. The three poles are - Teacher, Student and Environment.
- There are different types of education. Formal education is planned by men consciously and deliberately. The purpose or objective of formal education is pre-determined. Informal education is that type of education which we acquire by living with others in the society. It takes place both consciously and unconsciously. Non-formal education is a system which is given outside the formal system. It is for the de-institutionalised learner.
- The scope of education is very comprehensive as well as very wide.Generally speaking, scope means the range, variety and elasticity of the subjects. It has no limitation.



1.8 FURTHER READING

1) Nunn : Education its data and first principle, London-1945
2) Kar B C : Education a study of its principles and Psychology, Bina Library Gauhati-1
3) Raymant. T : Principles of Education
4) Taneza V R : Educational Thought and Practice, Sterling Publishers Pvt Ltd New Delhi

- Formal education takes place through qualified teachers and bonafide students. On the otherhand, in Informal Education there is no such provision.

Ans to Q No 7: Non-formal education is meant for school drop outs, employed or working person, the housewives, retired person and many others who are looking for information, knowledge or training without a degree or diploma.

Ans to Q No 8: Scope of education means the range, variety and elasticity of subjects. It also includes opportunity of activity, operation and application. The scope of education is limitless and becomes very wide.

Ans to Q No 9: In the scope of education, so many subjects are included. It draws only functional material from subjects like Philosophy of Education, Sociology of Education, Educational Psychology, History of Education, comparative Education, Educational Problems, Educational Administration and Organization, Teaching Techniques etc.

Ans to Q No 10: True education is that education which shows us the way of living a corporate, useful and meaningful life in the present day which is rapidly changing and an amazingly complex world. True education makes an individual free and easy instead of being sophisticated and complex.



1.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Short Questions: (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: What is Education? Explain the meaning of Education.

Q 2: Define Education. Explain briefly about the field of Education.

B) Long Questions: (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: What are the different types of Education? Write briefly on Formal, Informal and Non-formal Education.