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.

The field of education is very wide and elaborate. It is education through which man develops his thinking and reasoning, problem solving ability and creativity, intelligence and aptitude, positive sentiments and skills, good values and attitudes. Education modifies the behaviour of an individual. Human beings acquire and learn something everyday and every moment. Thus, the entire life of man is nothing but a process of education. Therefore, education is called a continuous process and it is concerned with man as he lives and grows in an evergrowing society.

1.3 MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF EDUCATION

In this section, we are going to discuss the term of education, its meaning and definitions. Let us discuss it in details in below.

1.3.1 Meaning of Education

Education has a wide connotation. It promotes the harmonious development of the child. The designed process of education carries different meanings. There are various definitions of the term 'Education'. Different thinkers, philosophers, psychologists, educationists and teachers express their own views according to their own outlook on education. The term education is said to be derived from the latin word 'Educare'. Educare means 'to bring up', 'to train', to nourish. According to another view, education means 'leading out' the inborn qualities, talents, powers and virtues of the child because the words 'E' means 'out of' and 'duco' means 'I lead'. So the natural endowment with which an individual comes to the world should be developed, the creative power should be expressed and impulses, urges and needs should be satisfied.According to this view, development of individuality has got more importance that is mainly the individual latent abilities, interests and aptitudes. This view emphasises the all round drawing out of the best in the child and less on the development of social efficiency for better adjustment in society. Education has a great importance in the all round development of the child. The importance of education has always been realised by all

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.

Broad or Wider Meaning of Education

In the broader sense, education is called a continuous process. It begins at birth and continues throughout life. Education is a process of development from infancy to maturity, from cradle to the grave. Broader meaning of education has been defined by different thinkers from different points of view. According to Drever, "Education is a process of controlling and modifying the behaviour of the young so as to produce a recognised type of behaviour in the adult." On the other hand, Hopkins opines that "Education in its widest sense includes everything that exerts a formative influence." Similarly, Edward Thring elaborated his idea and said that "Education is the transmission of life, by the living, to the living". In this sense, the famous American pragmatic philosopher John Dewey expressed that "Life itself is development and development itself is life". Education covers the entire life of the child. It includes all the influences which act upon an individual during his passage from the cradle to the grave. Education is everything which influences human behaviour and personality. This kind of experience comes through a number of agencies like Family, School, Society etc. The wider meaning of edcation basically implies that:

- it is a life long process of learning.
- it covers all the experiences of life.
- there is no fixed curriculum and methods
- it is free from rigidity
- it is a process of adjustment.

1.3.2 Definitions of Education

To make things more clear, we have to go through the definitions of education provided by various educationists, thinkers and philosophers in different ways. Each of them has expressed his or her own on view regarding education. We can mention some of these definitions here to give a comprehensive idea of the term 'education'. The Websters' New Twentieth Century Dictionary defines the meaning of education as "a process of training and developing knowledge,

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."

- **According to Swami Vivekananda,** education is "the manifestation of the perfection already in man"



LET US KNOW

- Education is a purposeful process. Both teacher and taught must make efforts for achieving the purpose or goal.
- Education is an all round harmonious development of all the aspects of human personality.
- In the narrow sense, Education means schooling and in broader sense, Education is a continuous life long process.
- Educators and educand are the participants of the total system of Education.
- Education is a Bi-Polar process, the teachers and the students being the two poles.
- Education is a Tripolar process. The poles are Teacher, Students and Environment.

We have discussed many definitions regarding the term 'Education'. But in our present practice, Reden's definition is more practicable and by far the best . According to him, "Education is the deliberate and systematic influence exerted by the mature person upon the immature, through instruction, discipline and harmonious development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual powers of the human being, according to individual and social needs and directed towards the union of the educand with his creator as the final end."

1.4 PROCESS OF EDUCATION

Although in a broad sense, education is a life-long and continuous process, yet for convenience to understand the term, the educationists have divided education into three processes, which are briefly discussed below:

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.

.....

.....

.....

Q 3: How did Gandhiji define education?

.....

.....

.....



ACTIVITY 1.1

Write a suitable definition of Education according to you

.....

.....

.....

.....

1.5 TYPES OF EDUCATION

After developing a fair understanding of the basic meaning and concept of education, let us discuss the different types of education. The process of education can generally be divided into three types as shown below:

TYPES OF EDUCATION

FORMAL **INFORMAL** **NON-FORMAL**

Let us have a look into these three types separately:

Formal Education :

Formal education is planned by men consciously and deliberately. It implies modification of behaviour through an organised system of education which is specifically established for the purpose. Formal education has a particular goal. Here, students and teachers are engaged for a definite purpose. The purpose or objective of formal education is pre-determined. There are some rules, regulations and formalities. Formal education is imparted in the educational institutions like Schools, Colleges and Universities. After the completion of the course with the help of examination and evaluation, the concerned authority confers a degree and certificate to the individual. It should be pointed out that formal education is not merely

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.

Difference between Formal and Informal Education :

After getting a better understanding about formal and informal education, we should also know how both the types can be differentiated.

There are some differences between formal education and informal education. They are as follows :

- Formal education has formal means and ends but on the other hand Informal education has no such means and ends.
- In formal education, there are qualified teachers to teach a group of students, whereas in Informal education there are no teachers and students.
- In formal education, both the teachers and the students are conscious about the process but in Informal education, neither the teacher nor the student is conscious about the process.
- Formal education has some prescribed course and fixed time table but in Informal education, there is no prescribed course and fixed time table.
- Formal education is imparted in institutions such as School, College and University but for Informal education, there is no fixed place.
- In Formal education, examinations are held and degrees or certificates are awarded, but in Informal education, there is no examination system nor the provision of certificates or degree.
- Formal education starts and ends at a particular stage but Informal education continues throughout life.
- Formal education leads to mental strain on the part of the learner since he has to make serious efforts to learn, but Informal education is natural and it does not cause much strain for the learner.



LET US KNOW

- The purpose of formal education is predetermined.
- Informal education is incidental and it is not pre-planned.
- Non-formal education is an alternative system to formal education.

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?

.....

.....

.....

Q 5: What is Informal Education?

.....

.....

.....

Q 6: Mention two distinction between Formal and Informal Education.

.....

.....

.....

Q 7: Non-formal Education is meant for whom?

.....

.....

.....



ACTIVITY 1.2

As a learner of non-formal education how you feel that non-formal education is an open learning system of education.Give some reason while supporting the view.

.....

.....

.....

Give some examples of informal education.

.....

.....

.....

.....

1.6 SCOPE OF EDUCATION

The scope of education is very comprehensive as well as very wide. The field of education have occupied different aspects of this universe. Here, scope means the range, breadth, variety and elasticity of subjects. It also includes opportunity of activity, operation and application. The scope of

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.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 8: What do you mean by Scope of Education?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Q 9: What are the things included within the Scope of Education?

.....

.....

.....

Q 10: What is meant by true Education?

.....

.....

.....



1.7 LET US SUM UP

- Education means acquisition of knowledge.
- The true education must make individual free and easy instead of making them sophisticated and complex.
- There is no doubt that education should play an effective role in all varied circumstances.
- Education helps the individual in making adjustment with his self, with parents, relatives, friends, teachers or members of the society.
- Education is an allround harmonious development of all the aspects of human personality.
- Educator and educand are the main conveyance of education.
- The term education is derived from the word 'Educo', 'E' means out of 'Duco' means ‘I lead’.

- 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



1.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Education means an acquisition of knowledge. It is a designed process and it promotes the harmonious development of the child. The term 'education' has been derived from the latin word 'Educare' or 'Educere'. Educare means 'to bring up' 'to train', 'to nourish'. On the otherhand Educere means 'to lead out'. The first derivation implies that education means something to be imposed from outside but the second derivation implies growth from within.

Ans to Q No 2: Reden's definition is "Education is the deliberate and systematic influence exerted by the mature person upon the immature, through instruction, discipline and harmonious development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual powers of the human being according to individual and social needs and directed towards the union of the educand with his creator as the final end."

Ans to Q No 3: According to Mahatma Gandhi-"By education, I mean an all round drawing out of the best in child and man, body,mind and spirit." Here, the main stress is given on developing the 3Hs that is Hand, Head and Heart through craft education and learning by doing method of teaching.

Ans to Q No 4: Formal education is imparted through the educational institutions like schools, colleges and universities.

Ans to Q No 5: Informal education is incidental education and it has no pre-plan. Informal education is that type of education which we get by coming into contact with others in the society.

Ans to Q No 6: Distinctions are :

- Formal education has formal means and end but informal education has no such means and ends.

- 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.

Q 2: Enumerate the differences between Formal and Informal Education.

Write briefly on the 'Scope of Education'.

C) Write Short Notes (Within 150 words)

A) Meaning of Education

B) Definitions of Education

C) Formal Education

D) Narrow Meaning of Education

E) Informal Education

F) Wider Meaning of Education

G) Non-formal Education`

H) Tripolar Process of Education

****