UNIT 4 : FACTORS OF COMPARATIVE EDUCATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

4.1 Learning Objectives
4.2 Introduction
4.3 Geographical Factor
4.4 Economical Factor
4.5 Cultural Factor
4.6 Sociological Factor
4.7 Linguistic Factor
4.8 Historical Factor
4.9 Let Us Sum Up
4.10 Further Reading
4.11 Answers To Check Your Progress
4.12 Possible Questions

4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- explain the factors of comparative education
- describe how the various factors influence the different aspects of education.

4.2 INTRODUCTION

In Comparative Education, the main emphasis is given on the comparisons of the system of education of two or more countries. The whole education system of a country can be studied from the perspective of formal, informal and non-formal system of education. When we study the educational system of a particular country, a detailed study from pre-primary level to post graduate level is of utmost necessity. A National System of Education is not created in a day but it has to be developed going through various stages of educational systems in a systematic and scientific manner. Through various angles, National System of Education is to be studied like

philosophical, social, economical, historical, cultural, etc. to name a few. All these factors have got tremendous influence on different aspects of education, be it teaching, learning, planning and implementation, administration, supervision etc. These factors ultimately help in shaping the National System of Education. Thus, we can say, National System of Education is not only dependent on a single factor but a combination of several factors. When we compare educational system or two or more countries through comparative education, it is quite important to study or compare the factors that influence in shaping the educational system of those countries. As such, study of factors related to comparative education is of prime importance so as to frame an effective National System of Education. The main factors of comparative education are mentioned below.

- Geographical
- Economical
- Cultural
- Sociological
- Linguistic
- Historical



LET US KNOW

- National System of Education is to be studied from varied perspectives like philosophical, social, economical, historical, cultural, etc.
- The main factors of Comparative Education are Geographical, Economical, Cultural, Sociological, Linguistic, Historical, etc.

4.3 GEOGRAPHICAL FACTOR

The geographical factor of a nation tremendously influences its education, culture as well as its civilisation in a broader perspective. Different countries of the world have different geographical locations. In turn, they have different climatic conditions. The population of a country also comes under the purview of geographical factor which has a direct influence on the educational system of that particular nation. In addition to climatic

condition and population, one more geographical factor i.e. land configuration also influence educational system of a country. If we observe the climatic condition of a particular nation, the system of education varies from place to place. School timings and duration differs as per the climatic condition. In warm climatic condition, the school hours begin in the morning but in cold climatic condition, school timings begin lately. As per the climatic condition of a place, the architecture and material used in building houses also differ. Likewise, timings of holidays also show variation. In warmer places, long summer holidays are given but in cooler places, long winter vacations are generally given. The examination system, the curriculum studies, etc. are also affected due to climatic conditions of a region.

The population of a country also has influence on educational system. It is generally observed that in areas with higher population density, paucity of educational infrastructure and amenities are there. As a result, the students suffer from getting quality educational facilities. In areas with lesser density, lack of infrastructure is a matter of concern because a student cannot receive proper education without a sound educational infrastructure.

Land configuration also plays an important part in relation to educational system of a region. The design and structure of the buildings and location of school in urban and rural areas have a profound impact on the educational system which in turn affects the life and thinking of the common people.

Thus, we can opine that geographic factor plays a very pre-eminent role in the development of Comparative Education.

4.4 ECONOMICAL FACTORS

There is an intimate relationship between educational system and economy of a country. On the basis of the economic condition of a country, the aims and objectives of education, method of study, discipline, curriculum, etc. varies. The country with good economic condition will provide quality educational facilities to its students. By the term educational facilities, infrastructure related to school building, equipment, method and aids of teaching-learning, etc. are included. Contrary to the rich countries, students

from poor countries are deprived from quality education and related facilities. As there are lots of scope available in rich countries, students get much more opportunity to expose their potentialities to the utmost level and also in building a fruitful career which in turn has a direct contribution in the human resource development of the entire nation. On the other hand, in poor countries, students with a good IQ do not get proper exposure; as a result they are unable to sustain a good future career for themselves and nation building resulting in loss of human resource of that particular nation.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: What are the main factors of Comparative Education?

.....

.....

Q 2: What are the three important aspects under Geographical Factor which have influence on Comparative Education?

.....

.....

4.5 CULTURAL FACTOR

The word culture comprises a complex whole which includes beliefs, customs, traditions, food habits, dressing and multifaceted ways of living of a particular society. Therefore, the influence of culture upon the educational system of a country is immense. Various culture of the world has their own impact on their respective educational systems. For instance, the impact of Indian culture and tradition on education are directly visible in all the stages of education in India. Likewise, education system in nations like France is strongly influenced by the French Revolution and in Russia by Bolshevik Revolution. Industrial Revolution also had a profound impact on the educational system of not only Europe but throughout the world and it led to shifting of the educational system to a more scientific way of thinking, rather than remaining on a much more abstract level of spirituality and devotion. If we go through the curriculum, aims and objectives of educational

system of various nations, we observe that culture plays a very prominent role in formulation of policies that directly affects the educational system of the nation. The country with a rich cultural heritage always has a deep impact on the upbringing of the student and directly affects in the development of personality and behaviour of the children. Likewise, culture also influences in the development of value system amongst the students. Material culture always influences the materialistic development of the country whereas non-material culturedo influence the development of character, personality and value system of its students. As observed, development of material culture is very rapid while the pace of non-material culture is quite slow. So, for a healthier society, utmost care and caution should be taken into consideration so as to make a proper balance between the two so that cultural lag does not creep up in the society. In comparative education, while we compare the educational system of two or more countries, we must focus on the indigenous cultural factors of all those nations.

4.6 SOCIOLOGICAL FACTOR

Sociological factor is one of the important factors of study in Comparative Education. Under the sociological factor, various aspects of the society are studied and analysed to understand its impact on national system of education. Society is composed of individuals. When individuals stay together, they have to maintain certain rules and regulations so that the society can run in a smooth and hassle-free manner. The process through which we know the rules and regulations of the society is known as socialisation. To live in a society in a peaceful way, every individual should be socialised. Education is an important means of socialisation for an individual. The socialisation process begins from home and continues and is further developed by the schools. Likewise, when we live in a social group, we have to be aware of the social norms as well as customs and traditions of the society. The knowledge on customs, traditions and social norms are transmitted to the individuals by the school or the society. Schools closely reflect the social patterns that are prevalent in a particular society. Education

system of a society is based on the values and principles that are active in a society. Schools are built, managed and controlled by the society. Schools are the best means to transmit the knowledge of the society from one generation to the other. It is education only through which social and cultural changes take place. As such, it is clearly observed that there is a reciprocal relationship between the school and the society. To know about any education system, it is important to know its sociological background which directly influences the education process. In Comparative Education, it is very much important to study the sociological background of the nations which are to be compared.



LET US KNOW

- The word 'culture' comprises a complex whole which includes beliefs, customs, traditions, food habits, dressing and multifaceted ways of living of a particular society. Therefore, the influence of culture upon the educational system of a country is immense.
- The process through which we know the rules and regulations of the society is known as socialisation. To live in a society in a peaceful way, every individual should be socialised. Education is an important means of socialisation for an individual.



ACTIVITY 4.1

Q. Apart from these factors, what are the other factors that influence the educational system of a nation?

4.7 LINGUISTIC FACTOR

In a country, we come across many languages and dialects spoken by the common masses. But all these languages cannot be considered as national language, rather one or two languages spoken by majority of the population are considered as national language and all the others are regional or state languages. The national language plays an important role

in the field of education. National language is the medium through which the education of the nation is imparted. Apart from national language, a child's first language i.e., his/ her mother tongue plays an important role in the education process. The child always feels comfortable and easy in expressing any thoughts or feelings through mother tongue. We know that if the mother tongue is the medium of instruction, a strong foundation in relation to national character and unity can be built. But if much more importance is given on a foreign language, the national character becomes weak. So, to build a strong national character, medium of instruction must be the mother tongue on which the child has grown up. To know a nation's particular education system, Comparative Education should give more importance on linguistic factor.

4.8 HISTORICAL FACTOR

The history of every nation plays an important role in moulding and shaping the fate and all activities of a nation. This historical factor is strongly reflected in the educational system of any country. Historical records show us that with the passage of time, educational system of a nation undergoes changes. In different historical eras, we observe the prevalence of different educational system in the same society or the country. For example, educational system of India is quite dynamic which changes its shades in various era of history. During the Vedic age, Vedic educational system was prevalent; it changed to Buddhist educational system with the advent of Buddhism and sponsorships from the royal families later on. Again, with the passage of time, Islamic education system came to prominence with the establishment of Muslim rule and lastly modern education took its stronghold with the coming of British in India. Further, after independence, National Education Policies took active part in shaping the educational system of the nation so as to fulfill the aspirations of the students and the citizens. Likewise, different countries like Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, the USA, Japan, China, etc. have their own historical background which has a direct influence on the development of educational system of those nations. Therefore, it is very important to study the historical

background of a nation so as to formulate effective policies pertaining to educational system of a nation. It is also worth mentioning that without knowing the roots of the society and education, it is quite difficult to formulate effective policies for radical reforms in the educational system of a nation.



4.9 LET US SUM UP

- A National System of Education is not created in a day but it has to be developed going through various stages of educational systems in a systematic and scientific manner.
- National System of Education is not only dependent on a single factor but depend on combination of several factors.
- Study of factors related to Comparative Education is of prime importance so as to frame an effective National System of Education.
- The main factors of Comparative Education are Geographical, Economical, Cultural, Sociological, Linguistic, Historical, etc.
- Climatic conditions, population and land configuration are the three main aspects under Geographical factor that influence educational system of a nation.
- There is an intimate relationship between educational system and economy of a country. On the basis of the economic condition of a country, the aims and objectives of education, method of study, discipline, curriculum, etc. varies.
- The word culture comprises a complex whole which include beliefs, customs, traditions, food habits, dressing and multifaceted ways of living of a particular society. Therefore, the influence of culture upon the educational system of a country is immense.
- Under the sociological factor, various aspects of the society are studied and analysed to understand its impact on the national system of education.
- To build a strong national character, medium of instruction must be

the mother tongue on which the child has grown up. To know a nation's particular education system, Comparative Education should give more importance on linguistic factor.

- It is very important to study the historical background of a nation so as to formulate effective policies pertaining to educational system of a nation. It is also worth mentioning that without knowing the roots of the society and education, it is quite difficult to formulate effective policies for radical reforms in the educational system of a nation.



4.10 FURTHER READING

1) Chaube, S.P.; *Comparative Education*, Ram Prasad & Sons, Agra, India (1969).

2) Sharma, R.A.; *Comparative Education – Educational Systems & Problems of the World*, R. Lall Book Depot, Meerut (2008).

3) Sodhi, T.S.; *Textbook of Comparative Education*, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., Noida (2020).



4.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q 1: The main factors of Comparative Education are Geographical, Economical, Cultural, Sociological, Linguistic, Historical, etc.

Ans to Q 2: The three important aspects under Geographical Factor which have influence on Comparative Education are Climatic Condition, Population and Land Configuration.



4.12 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A. Short Question (Answer each question in about 150 to 300 words)

Q 1: What are the factors of Comparative Education?

Q 2: Why it is important to study factors of Comparative Education?

Q 3: How do the Geographical factors influence the National System of Education?

Q 4: Discuss the significance of Economical factor in studying Comparative Education.

B. Long Question (Answer each question in about 300 to 500 words)

Q 1: Discuss the significance of cultural factors in Comparative Education.

Q 2: Why it is important to study sociological backgrounds of the nations in Comparative Education?

Q 3: Explain how language has an influence in the building of National character or in the development of National System of Education.

Q 4: Explain the reasons to study historical background of nations to be compared.

*** ***** ***