UNIT 10 : EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE USA

UNIT STRUCTURE

10.1 Learning Objectives
10.2 Introduction
10.3 Historical Background
10.4 Features of American Education
10.5 Educational Administration
10.6 Education system in USA
  10.6.1 Pre-primary Education
  10.6.2 Primary Education
  10.6.3 Secondary Education
  10.6.4 Higher Education
  10.6.5 Teacher Education
10.7 Let Us Sum Up
10.8 Further Reading
10.9 Answers To Check Your Progress
10.10 Possible Questions

10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit the learners will be able to-

- understand the historical background of the Educational system of USA.
- get a clear idea on structure of the educational administration of USA
- analyse the various features of American education system.
- evaluate the education system of USA at different levels
- compare the education system of USA with the education system of other countries.

10.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous units you must have learnt the education system of different countries, here in this unit we will discuss the Education system of USA. The USA education system holds a special place in the world. It has certain characteristics based on democratic principles and ideals which make it exemplary for other countries as well. In the present unit the historical background of the education system, Features of the education system, administrative pattern and various stages of the education of USA has been discussed.

The history of United States of America, the lead of the developed countries of the world, is not very old. In the beginning of the seventeenth century, about 400 years ago, European countries started settling here. The emergence of a new nation began with the rebellion against Europe. Along with the European people their culture, civilization, philosophy, traditions, language etc arrived. The American education system offers a rich field of choices for international students. There is such an array of schools, programs and locations that the choices may overwhelm students, even those from the U.S. In this unit we will discuss the various aspects of the education system of USA.

10.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

With the colonization of America need for better education facilities was also felt. The wealthy classes used to send their children to their native places for education and it was available only for the upper classes. European influence was seen at the first phase of the education system but later on it gradually changed according to the local needs, ideologies and necessities. Upto 1874 it was decided to have primary education on eight year basis but gradually it expanded towards higher education. For the ease of discussion the period of the development of education has been divided into some years-

1647-1820: since 1647 it was compulsory for every community to provide schools for their children. It was started from the state of Massachusetts and spread over to other parts of the state. In 1635 Boston

school was established and teaching was the same as it was in a grammar school of England. Benjamin Franklin established the first academy where English, latin, mathematics and other practical subjects were taught.

1821-1880: Enrolment in school increased during this time. A high school was established in Boston in1821 where three years course was provided. Along with English as a main course of the study practical subjects were also included as optional. From 1840 education began to gain momentum and more schools were established. Educational system was transformed according to the needs and the changing society.

1880-1930: This period witnessed tremendous increase in enrolment in schools as the population also increased at a rapid rate. The increase in population demanded more schools which compromised the quality of education. Later on this was looked into and the curriculum was diversifies to suit the needs of the society. Education in USA during this time was made compulsory and the age of compulsory attendance was also raised. The increase in the population increased the demand for higher education.

In1636 first college known as Harvard College was established within the township area of New town adjoining Boston. Church can be attributed for the development of higher education in America. Havard College was controlled by church and same type of colleges were established in various parts of USA.by 1769 nine colleges were established there.

Various independent and self-controlled colleges were began to be established which prepared the students for the practical life. These colleges had their own method of instruction and evaluation system. After revolution the Education system of America changed drastically. In 1780 Havard College acquired the status of university. After the revolution most colleges converted into university and the Pennsylvania University was upgraded in 1761. Similarly the college established in Rode in 1795 was upgraded to Brown University in 1804.

The religious nature of the educational institutes change and the universities followed the secular pattern of the education system. Some universities came under state control and some universities maintained their autonomy. An important feature of the American education system is that

every university follows their own pattern, curriculum and the evaluation system.

10.4 FEATURES OF AMERICAN EDUCATION

In this section we will discuss the special features of the education system of USA-

- Education is free from the control of the states, and it has been always the responsibility of the provinces and the local institutes. The role of the state remains that of an ally but there is no interference.
- American education is based on the democratic ideals and principles. The decentralization of power and equality of opportunities are the core principle of the education system.
- All public school follows secularism, religion is considered personal and family subject.
- Students at the secondary level has the freedom to choose various subjects from different options. The colleges also offers professional and vocational courses which which lead the students to different professions.
- Philanthropic institutions have played a very important role in the development of the education system of America. Funds are provided by these institutions for the creative work, innovations and experimentation.
- The curriculum is continuously revised based on the recent developments in the sphere of technology, polity and culture.
- Guidance facility is provided to the students of all levels and keeping in minds the interest of the children with special needs, efforts are made accordingly. Special attention is given to the students with special needs and gifted children.
- In USA there is close relationship between school and the community. The community takes special interest in the education of the society. The problems are solved in cooperation with the community.
- There is importance of Research in American Education system. Extensive research studies are done on the various spheres of

education with the cooperation of the governmental agencies and private foundations.

- The first 12 years of education that is elementary and secondary education is provided freely to all the American children. Although in higher education public universities charge fees from the students it is only 25 percent of their total expenditure.
- American education is compulsory in most of the states till 16 years of age and in some till 18 years of age. 12 years of schooling are divided into different patterns in different parts of the state.
- Parent's cooperation in the education system of USA is very effective. Special education is provided to the differently abled children along with the medical facilities.
- Adult education is very popular and recognized education system in USA. Both formal and informal education is available.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: In which year Harvard college was established?

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Q 2: Write two features of Education in USA.

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10.5 EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Americans had adopted the European system of education in the beginning and was also influenced by the British system of Education. But at the present time it has been shaped according to needs of the present society. In America education is considered as an individual affair. There is no distinct and clear cut distribution of educational responsibilities between state and central government. In this section we will discuss the function and duties of different agencies.

Federal Government

Education is a governmental function and the Federal government is deeply concerned with the education. The state governments decides the policy and the methods to support the education. Federal government shoulders various responsibilities regarding education such as-

- Federal government provides financial assistance to state government.
- Federal government also makes provision for education to those areas which are under central administration.
- It also looks after the educational arrangements of the red Indians.
- It collaborates with other foreign countries for different educational programmes.

Federal office of Education

The federal organization that is directly deals with education is the office of Education in the department of Health, Education and welfare. The president appoints a commissioner to supervise the office. The main functions of the office includes-

- It collects, prepares and disseminate statistical datas related to education
- It supervises the arrangements for the implementation of the various national schemes of education
- It executes various ways to reform in the educational arena
- It holds control on the vocational and technical education
- It arranges the educational facilities for the Negros and the red Indians.
- It looks after the education of the Columbia and other colonies of the USA.

Control of Education by the States

Constitutionally the responsibility of education lies with the state and it has allowed full freedom to the local governments to run the educational system according to the needs, interest and traditions of the people. The local government implement the policies determined by the state government. The state government run their functions through various departments-

Chief Education Administrative Officer

The states established a state education board to main educational institutions and it is headed by the chief state school officer or state commissioner of education or the commissioner of public instruction. In eight states he is nominated by the governor, in another eight states he is elected by the members of the state board education and in rest of the states he is elected by the people.

State Department of Education

A state department of education is established in every state which helps the chief education officer in disseminating his responsibilities. This board is consists of consultants and professional employees. The work of the department is financial management, help in implementation of the rues. Improvement of curriculum, information collection, maintenance and dissemination, certification of the teachers and to lead and provide suggestions to the administration of the special schools.

The department also distributes the government grant to different institutions and schools. It also helps in preserving the rights of the minorities and provides free universal education where local people are unable to establish a school.

Local Education Board

The local education boards run the schools according to interest, tradition and ideal of the society recognizing the control of the state governments. These boards are constituted by electing the members in a democratic manner. The local boards are of four types: Basic, intermediate, coterminous and Non-coterminous. The basic administrative units are influenced by the local people, whereas the intermediate units are influenced by both local and government units. Coterminous units are influenced by the government only whereas non-coterminous units are totally independent. The function of the board is legislative, it formulates the policies and examines and evaluates the works of the students. Another function of the board into coordinate the facilities and needs of the teachers, local population, classes and groups according to needs, interest, tradition of the people at the same time preserving its freedom. Local boards executes

the programmes accepted by the state board of education.

Local school superintendent

The administrative officer of the local board of education is known as Local school superintendent. The superintendent acts as a coordination among various stakeholders of the education system such as state board of education, education officers, public social associations, political parties, student and communities for the development of education. He is the supervisor of the administration and controls the entire activities of the school. The supervisor secures public cooperation and assures people that education is being organized according to their needs and aspirations.

County board system

There are county boards in the rural areas. County boards are very successful, strong and organised units. There are county boards mainly in provinces of Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, virginia etc. its main administrator is the superintendent of the county board, whose main function are to control over schools, curriculum formulation, providing educational facilities, selection of teachers, preparation of rural education programmes, development of education and implementation of projects.

Township or town system

Township education boards are located in smaller towns and cities. Such arrangements exist in the provinces of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, low, Michigan etc. these boards are highly developed and modern.

School district system

School district is one of the smallest administrative units. School districts includes the schools with one room whereon teachers teaches all the subjects, sometimes it includes the children of only a few families.

City school organization

Federal government has accepted all the urban areas as city where population is more than 2,500. City school organization is different from the township system and it is more developed than the educational system of the rural areas.

City education boards

In some places there is a provision for the city education

superintendent and the city education board and both acts as a legislature. Generally city board education formulates the policies and the superintendent implements it.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 3: Write one function of federal office of education.

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Q 4: What is the role of Education officer?

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Q 5: What is a county board?

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ACTIVITY: 10.1

Make a list of the administrative branches that is related with education

10.6 EDUCATION SYSTEM IN USA

The education system of USA is very developed and well organized. In this section we will discuss the various stages of education that from elementary level to the higher education system of USA to have a clear knowledge of the education system there so that we can compare it with our education system and analyse both.

10.6.1 Pre-primary Education

The first kindergarten school of USA was established in Wisconsin in 1865, and the first nursery school in New York in 1919, but development of primary education took place in 20th century.

Pattern of pre-primary education:

1. From the day of conception to two years: the parents are educated to create an atmosphere at home for the care of the child much in advance of its birth. Parents should be very conscious about their duties and responsibilities as the environment of home influences the development of the child. Parents should be given the knowledge of child psychology and to cater this need department of Education and Health's opened such clinics in some places.
2. From two to three years of age: it is very important to cater to the physical, psychological and emotional needs of the children. It is necessary that the children know the right tendency and do their basic chores like cleaning the teeth, bathing, changing the dress paying with other children etc. homely atmosphere is provided in these schools and the children are kept engaged in group activities or games. There is no definite age of admission to nursery schools, trances from 1 year to 4 years. In USA there are four types of nursery schools-
   a. Schools run by religious institutions
   b. Schools run by private agencies
   c. Schools run by local bodies, state governments or federal governments.
   d. Cooperative nursery schools.

   Cooperative schools are run by the cooperation of the facilities of the students. Families provide financial assistance to the schools in the form of subscriptions. All the types of arrangements such as financial, managerial, administrative, academic, appointment of teachers are done by the committee selected by the concerned public with the collective efforts of the parents. Teacher parents meetings are held regularly to update the parents regarding their child and to plan the future programmes.
3. From three to six or seven years of age: In America kindergarten education is regarded as post nursery education.

Though this education is not compulsory it is gaining popularity day by day. The main objective of kindergarten education is to develop the natural capacities of the students and to arouse curiosity instinct. Another aim of kindergarten education to prepare the children for the primary education. The activities that are organised in the kindergarten schools helps to develop the physical, social and mental abilities of the students which makes them self dependent.

The pre-primary education is not compulsory in USA but its getting popular due to its benefits. These schools are mainly run by local funds and state government grants. Local boards can arrange for pre-primary education according to local needs. State governments issue necessary instruction to the public kindergartens. Officers and experts of education department inspect these schools to maintain the proper standards. Legislative facilities are also available for the protection and establishment of the kindergarten schools.

10.6.2 Primary Education

In USA primary education is post-kindergarten education. It refers to the first eight years of formal education in most jurisdiction. The first year of primary education is commonly referred to as kindergarten and begins at or around age 5. This stage is very important for the development of the child as at the stage children remain very receptive. Primary education can not be separated from the kindergarten method of teaching where education is provided according to their developmental level. Elementary schools provides instruction to the fundamentals skills of reading, writing, arithmetic as well as history, geography, crafts, music, science, art and physical education.

Elementary education is free and compulsory in USA and it is arranged to make the socialisation of the child and to cater to the needs of them. The general aims of primary education helps to

provide same level of education across USA. The aims of primary education in USA are-

- To develop the basic skills and understanding which is essential for effective communication.
- To develop the social and national spirit within the child. It is a prime aim to develop the child to work in accordance with the society and nation
- To develop the physical and mental health of the children with proper instruction and practice which may build proper habits conducive to physical and mental well-being.
- To develop the spirit of freedom and provide opportunities so that the children can exercise their freedom with respect to their duties and keeping in mind the rights of others.
- One of the important aim of primary education is to make the children self-dependent and make them able to solve their day to day problems.
- Another aim of primary education is to develop their creative potentialities.

Organization and administration of primary schools:

There is no uniform organizational structure for the primary education in USA. As the schools are mostly run by the local bodies that is why it differs from place to place. Generally there are following types of primary schools in USA-

1. There are primary schools where one teacher teaches all the classes in one room and mostly these schools are situated in the rural areas.
2. There are some schools where one teacher teaches one subject and mostly found in those elementary schools where elementary classes are attached with the secondary schools.
3. There are also schools where a single teacher teaches all the subjects in one room. The teachers act as a class teacher and depending on the number of the students and size of the school there can be more than one teacher. These teachers are

appointed on the basis of the number of classes. One supersets teacher does the duty of the principal in these schools.

4. Another type of primary school that is prevalent in USA is platoon type of organisation where students are divided into groups. This scheme is very economical as it ensures the efficiency and solves the problem of shortage of the schools and space. When one group is busy in physical training or using the field, laboratory or library other group attends the classroom teaching which not only develops the personality of the students but develops them according to their interests and aptitudes.
5. A system where students learn at their own pace is known as individually prescribed instruction . In this system students are divided into groups according to their abilities where different worksheets are used instead of traditional books with clear instruction to solve the problems or tasks. In case of the confusion the students can go to the teacher for clearing the doubts.

Schools run and financed by the religious communities accepting the grants provided by the government and schools fees. In these schools along with other subjects, bible, religious treaties, church system and religious programmes are the part of the curriculum. The second type of schools are run by the local bodies and local organizations and are financed out by the donations and fees which is not much influenced by religion but religious and moral instructions form a major part of the curriculum. The second type of schools are public school, the expenditure is met by the public taxation. These schools are administered and controlled by public representatives. In this school system the guardians, teachers, officers can take part in the administration of the school and provide their constructive suggestions.

The curriculum of the primary education till 19th century to provide the knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic but at

present the aim is to all-round development of the child and flexible curriculum. Local institutions and state governments both takes part in the curriculum construction.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 6: What are the types of Nursery schools?

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Q 7: Write one aim of Primary Education in USA.

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Q 8: What is a platoon type school?

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10.6.3 Secondary Education

The secondary education in USA developed because of the impact of the industrial revolution. Americans had to face the problem of unemployment and it was impossible for them to provide jobs to every literate person and to solve that problem government decided to provide further education to children. Gradually secondary education developed due to the collective efforts of the public. The secondary education in America has been based on various objectives, they are-

- Education for successful citizenship
- Education for training the young students for daily life
- Education for preparing the individual for some vocations
- Educate the individuals on the basic rules and regulations of the society
- To develop the ability and skill to use the leisure time
- Develop the aesthetic sense
- And to develop them ethically and morally.

Secondary education is divided into two phases, middle or junior high school and high school. Students are given freedom to move different classrooms for different subjects. Secondary education in USA is available for all students of 14 to 17 years age. Students are given opportunities to select their own course of study according to their interest or based on the career they want to pursue. Along with the classroom teaching students are engaged in various outdoor activities also. Self-government of student is given importance in most of the secondary school. And they are graded based on their all-round performance.

The structure of secondary education

It is difficult to put the pattern of secondary education in a single frame. In some cases there is eight years of elementary and four years of secondary school. But in most of the cases six years of elementary school with three years of junior high school and three years of senior high school.

Types of schools

The junior high school: the main aim of establishing junior high school was to create an intermediate standard between the primary stage and the higher secondary stage. Several committees recommended the beginning of secondary studies in the seventh grade. The first formally organized junior high schools were established in Columbus, Ohio in 1909 and in Berkley, California in 1910.

These schools were created with a view to impart education to adolescents in the first two years; from 12 t0 14 years for a proper utilization of educational potentialities. The junior high schools usually includes 7th, 8th and 9th grades.

High Schools or higher secondary schools: The term high school is term used for the higher secondary classes comprised of 10th, 11th and 12th.

Comprehensive high schools: Comprehensive high school is a distinctive feature of American education system. It offers variety

of courses combined in the same school. Theses school includes four classes that is from 9th to 12th which start at the end of the 8year course of the primary stage. All the students required to take core courses such as English, social studies, science and mathematics as electives, besides they choose the courses required to meet the needs of commercial, technical, agricultural or home economics. There are many schools where as many as 200 subjects are taught.

Vocational or industrial schools: A national society was established for the promotion of industrial education in the year 1906 and it suggested to include industrial and vocational training subjects at the secondary schools. These schools generally situated at the vocational and industrial centres. This education intended to train workers for industrial vocation. These schools maintain flexible programs to serve the varied types of students: those who attend day classes for full time, evening classes for employed workers, part time day classes and full time classes in slack seasons for employed people.

Specialized schools: Specialized schools provides technical, commercial, art, agricultural and business education which meets the specialized needs of the students. Qualified specialist teachers are available providing external knowledge and experimental practice.

Part time schools: due to various reasons many students cannot devote themselves entirely in receiving education or have to leave their education midway. For them part time schools are a blessing which provides dome hours education to those students who cannot receive education in schools. Part time schools are of two types- one is continuation schools where teaching is 3-4 hours per week on an average. These schools provides both vocational and cultural education. Another type of part time school is adult evening schools which run their classes daily in the evening. The persons who are engaged in some vocations can get their further

education in these schools. A feeling of worthy citizenship is created in them through education.

Junior colleges: Junior college comprised of the first two years of the secondary classes and they are managed by the local secondary schools.

In USA both comprehensive type of schools and specialized schools are found. Comprehensive school offers different subjects of study on the other hand specialized schools offer education in specialized courses.

The responsibility of setting graduation requirements and curriculum regulations lies with the state legislature, the state board of education and the state education department. State legislatures are concerned with prescribing how and to what degree the teaching shall be devoted to American and state history, government and physical education. In most of the schools requires four years of English, one year of mathematics, one year of science, two to three years of social studies and four years of health study ad physical education. The students may also choose subjects as foreign languages, psychology, fine arts, shorthand and typing. The curriculum are so designed that students graduating from high schools are able to get admission in local colleges and universities. Subjects usually listed as ‘constant’ or ‘solids’ which all students have to take and some subjects are elective which is chosen by the students who are interested in that particular subject. The list of required subjects varied from school to school and state to state.

Along with the curricular subjects importance is also given to the co-curricular activities in the American schools. These schools develop among the students the democratic way of thinking and expression. Various types of activities ranging from sports to cultural and literary activities are part of student activities.

10.6.4 Higher Education

Higher education in USA marked a rapid growth and development till 1860 with the establishment of various education centres and colleges. By the end of the civil war there were 21 state universities, 225 private universities and colleges were established. And most of them confined their education system to undergraduate teaching. Moreover higher education was specialized and research oriented which proved purposeless for the students with vocational interest. So the process began to make the higher education accessible for everyone and laws were passed against prohibiting any person on the basis of caste, religion, sex, nationality from receiving education. The changed system of higher education in America has changed the aim of the students. The important feature of higher education in America is that there is no common pattern of curriculum, method of teaching and organization though it follows a common objective. According to prof. W.H. Cowley, an authority in the development of American higher education regards it as a "sprawling, complex, diversifies mingle-mangle". This diversification offers various choices among students, such as- A student may either chose to go an institution which offers variety of programmes or may opt for a smaller institution where it offers one phase or some phases of education. A student may get education either in a university or college or in any professional school or junior college. Both public funded and private institutions are available. Even a student may earn while he is learning.

Another important feature of the higher education in USA is the autonomy of institutions, even the state legislature does not interfere in the academic affair of the institutions. The institutions intake varies in size and the co-educational institutes outnumbered the same gender institutes. Career counsellors and physical fitness programmes are the integral part of the education system.

Aims of Higher Education

The major aims of the education system of USA is to develop the social efficiency of the people so that they have a practical outlook towards life and another aim is to develop the humanitarian values and understanding of the national and international perspective. There are several general and specific aims of the higher education system of USA-

- To develop the mastery over the subject matter knowledge
- To provide orientation of the research work as practical training
- To develop the moral and national character among the students
- To develop the quest for the new knowledge
- Provide teacher training programmes
- Provide practical and experiential learning environment.

The structure of higher education:

There are two kinds of higher education institutes-

Private university: The private universities such as Stanford, John Hopkins, Columbia, Prinston, and Harvard are some private universities which is based on the old and conservative traditions with emphasis on the specialization and research. As such only brilliant students and those who keen interest on the research take admission in these institutes. These universities make their finances from the tuition fees paid by the students and as there is government control these universities have to face shortage of funds.

State Universities: State universities are aided and controlled by the state. Some of the state universities are Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California and Michigan Universities. The number of students in these universities are higher than the private universities. At the time of admission students of the concerned states given preference. The fee charged for them also very meagre. But the students from other state are charged five times more than they ordinarily charged.

There are three kind of colleges affiliated to the universities.

- Liberal arts colleges are controlled and managed by the religious institutions which provide bachelor's degree.
- There are some colleges which are independent and separate from the university system but within the university itself these are known as undergraduate colleges.
- The third type of institution that are affiliated to university is are graduate colleges. A student who is a graduate can take admission in these colleges. The administration and control of such colleges are collective and separate both. Collectively it is administered by the university office headed by the registrar.

Organization of universities

In the university 4 years are required for a bachelor's degree, one year for master's degree and minimum 4 years required for the PhD and three years for the undergraduate level. The universities are established for the satisfaction of the thirst of knowledge of the public and development of the nation. The head of the central administration of the university is the president who is elected by the board of trustees which is constituted by the politicians, teachers, prominent citizens etc. The term of the president is not definite and can hold the post for several years. The president have to look after the finances of the university along with solving various problem of the university. He is the person who has to maintain contact with the local and state administration. The administration of the university are divided into various faculties with dean for each faculty. Dean is also the head of the department of the concerned subject in the affiliated college and have to look after the financial matters. For some institutes dean is not the hard of the department of the concerned subject.

10.6.5 Teacher Education

Teacher education in USA refer to the professional training given to the would be teachers, but up to early 19th century there

was no programme for teacher education in USA. Those persons who has knowledge and keen in teaching became teachers. In 1839 state of Massachusetts established a state Normal school, which offered certificate after one year of training. The State Normal University was established in Iliions which prepared teachers for the primary and secondary schools. In 1873 the University of Low established a part-time educational training department. The establishment of Jefferson College in Washington among others in the 1800s marks the beginning of teacher education in America. Most reforms in the teacher education were brought up in the 20th century induced by certain factors, such as- transformation of the economy from agricultural to the industrial, expansion of the secondary education, desire to raise the standard of the education. The aims and objectives of American Teacher Education include: (a) Preparing teachers for the needs and aspirations of American as a democratic nation. (b) Preparing teachers who will later assist in the training of American children for the purpose of promoting their culture.

Organization of teacher Education

Four types of teacher education institutes can be found in USA which meets the need of training the teachers. But over the years the features and nature of these institutes are constantly changing. The institutes of teacher education are as follows-

Normal Schools: the beginning of professional teacher training programmes in USA can be attributed to the Normal schools. At first training was provided for one year to prepare the teachers for the elementary level and with the series of the development the duration was expanded to two and then three, became colleges of education which offered four years bachelor's degree.

Teacher's college: the teaching programmes included in the teacher's colleges are general education, professional education, specialization in the field of teaching. In addition to preparing the teachers for the primary and secondary education, some colleges

also award regular degrees.

Departments of Education: In USA universities started pedagogy or education as a regular and independent subject. Now almost all the universities have a separate department of education which preparers the future teachers by going them proper training. These departments also do research in methods of teaching and provides advanced courses for teachers studying in such departments of education.

Schools or colleges of Education: Schools of teacher education or colleges of teacher education are the institutes which are affiliated or associated with one university or the other. In 1879 such college was established by Michigan University. In such institutes students from the first year are accepted and they pursue general course for B.A. degree along with the courses in education which includes some hours of practice teaching.

Courses of study: The curriculum imparting teacher education ca be decided into two kinds-

General education and teacher training education. In some institute first two year are devoted for the general education and later two years for the professional education. But in some institutes both education are continued side by side. The professional programme includes-

History and principles of education, educational pedagogy, school management, general and special methods of teaching, observations of lessons and practice teaching.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 9: Write two aims of secondary education in USA.

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Q 10: What is a comprehensive high school?

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Q 11: How state university works?

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Q 12: What is Liberal Arts College?

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Q 13: What are the types of teacher education institutes?

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10.7 LET US SUM UP

In this unit we have discussed that-

- With the colonization of America need for better education facilities was also felt. The wealthy classes used to send their children to their native places for education and it was available only for the upper classes. European influence was seen at the first phase of the education system but later on it gradually changed according to the local needs, ideologies and necessities. Upto 1874 it was decided to have primary education on eight year basis but gradually it expanded towards higher education. For the ease of discussion the period of the development of education has been divided into some years
- Education is free from the control of the states, and it has been always the responsibility of the provinces and the local institutes. The role of the state remains that of an ally but there is no interference. American education is based on the democratic ideals and principles. The decentralization of power and equality of opportunities are the core principle of the education system. All public school follows secularism, religion is considered personal and family subject. Students at the secondary level has the freedom to choose various subjects from different options. The colleges also offers professional and vocational

courses which lead the students to different professions. Philanthropic institutions have played a very important role in the development of the education system of America. Funds are provided by these institutions for the creative work, innovations and experimentation.

- Americans had adopted the European system of education in the beginning and was also influenced by the British system of Education. But at the present time it has been shaped according to needs of the present society. In America education is considered as an individual affair. There is no distinct and clear cut distribution of educational responsibilities between state and central government. In this section we will discuss the function and duties of different agencies.
- Education is a governmental function and the Federal government is deeply concerned with the education. The state governments decides the policy and the methods to support the education.
- Constitutionally the responsibility of education lies with the state and it has allowed full freedom to the local governments to run the educational system according to the needs, interest and traditions of the people. The local government implement the policies determined by the state government
- The local education boards run the schools according to interest, tradition and ideal of the society recognizing the control of the state governments. These boards are constituted by electing the members in a democratic manner. The local boards are of four types: Basic, intermediate, coterminous and Non-coterminous.
- The pre-primary education is not compulsory in USA but its getting popular due to its benefits. These schools are mainly run by local funds and state government grants. Local boards can arrange for pre-primary education according to local needs. State governments issue necessary instruction to the public kindergartens. Officers and experts of education department inspect these schools to maintain the proper standards. Legislative facilities are also available for the protection and establishment of the kindergarten schools.
- In USA primary education is post-kindergarten education. It refers to

the first eight years of formal education in most jurisdiction. The first year of primary education is commonly referred to as kindergarten and begins at or around age 5. This stage is very important for the development of the child as at the stage children remain very receptive. Primary education can not be separated from the kindergarten method of teaching where education is provided according to their developmental level.

- The secondary education in USA developed because of the impact of the industrial revolution. Americans had to face the problem of unemployment and it was impossible for them to provide jobs to every literate person and to solve that problem government decided to provide further education to children. Gradually secondary education developed due to the collective efforts of the public.
- Higher education in USA marked a rapid growth and development till 1860 with the establishment of various education centres and colleges. By the end of the civil war there were 21 state universities, 225 private universities and colleges were established. And most of them confined their education system to undergraduate teaching. Moreover higher education was specialised and research oriented which proved purposeless for the students with vocational interest.
- The establishment of Jefferson College in Washington among others in the 1800s marks the beginning of teacher education in America. Most reforms in the teacher education were brought up in the 20th century induced by certain factors, such as- transformation of the economy from agricultural to the industrial, expansion of the secondary education, desire to raise the standard of the education.



10.8 FURTHER READING

1) Chaube, S.P; Chaube, A. (1998) .*Comparative Education (*2nd Ed). Vikash Publishing House Pet. Ltd.

2) Dutta, S.V; Rao, D.B. (2016).*Comparative Education.* Discovery Publishing House PVT.ltd.

3) Sharma, R.N (2017).*Comparative Education* (5th Ed.).Surjeet Publications.

4) Sharma, R.A. (2007).*Comparative Education* (1st Ed.).R. Lall Book Depot.

5) Sodhi, T.S. (2013).*Textbook of Comparative Education* (6th Ed). Vikas Publishing House.



10.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: 1636

Ans to Q No 2: Two features of American Education System are-

1. In USA there is close relationship between school and the community. The community takes special interest in the education of the society. The problems are solved in cooperation with the community.
2. There is importance of Research in American Education system. Extensive research studies are done on the various spheres of education with the cooperation of the governmental agencies and private foundations.

Ans to Q No 3: The federal organization that is directly deals with education is the office of Education in the department of Health, Education and welfare. The president appoints a commissioner to supervise the office. The main functions of the office includes-

- It collects, prepares and disseminate statistical datas related to education
- It supervises the arrangements for the implementation of the various national schemes of education

Ans to Q No 4: The states established a state education board to main

educational institutions and it is headed by the chief state school officer or state commissioner of education or the commissioner of public instruction. In eight states he is nominated by the governor, in another eight states he is elected by the members of the state board education and in rest of the states he is elected by the people.

Ans to Q No 5: There are county boards in the rural areas. County boards are very successful, strong and organized units. There are county boards mainly in provinces of Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia etc. its main administrator is the superintendent of the county board, whose main function are to control over schools, curriculum formulation, providing educational facilities, selection of teachers, preparation of rural education programmes, development of education and implementation of projects.

Ans to Q No 6: In USA there are four types of nursery schools-

a. Schools run by religious institutions
b. Schools run by private agencies
c. Schools run by local bodies, state governments or federal governments.
d. Cooperative nursery schools.

Ans to Q No 7: To develop the social and national spirit within the child. It is a prime aim to develop the child to work in accordance with the society and nation

Ans to Q No 8: In platoon type schools students are divided into groups. This scheme is very economical as it ensures the efficiency and solves the problem of shortage of the schools and space. When one group is busy in physical training or using the field, laboratory or library other group attends the classroom teaching which not only develops the personality of the students but develops them according to their interests and aptitudes.

Ans to Q No 9:

- Education for successful citizenship
- Education for training the young students for daily life

Ans to Q No 10: Comprehensive high school is a distinctive feature of

American education system. It offers variety of courses combined in the same school. Theses school includes four classes that is from 9th to 12th which start at the end of the 8year course of the primary stage. All the students required to take core courses such as English, social studies, science and mathematics as electives, besides they choose the courses required to meet the needs of commercial, technical, agricultural or home economics. There are many schools where as many as 200 subjects are taught.

Ans to Q No 11: State universities are aided and controlled by the state. Some of the state universities are Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California and Michigan Universities. The number of students in these universities are higher than the private universities. At the time of admission students of the concerned states are given preference. The fee charged for them also very meagre. But the students from other state are charged five times more than they ordinarily charged.

Ans to Q No 12: Liberal arts colleges are controlled and managed by the religious institutions which provide bachelor's degree.

Ans to Q No 13:

1. Normal Schools
2. Teacher's college
3. Departments of Education
4. Schools or colleges of Education



10.10 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A. Very short Questions (Answer each question in about 50 words)

Q 1: In which year Boston school was established?

Q 2: In which year Harvard College was upgraded to university?

Q 3: Who is a chief administrative officer?

Q 4: How many types local boards are divided in?

Q 5: In which year National Society was established?

Q 6: At what age kindergarten education begins?

Q 7: Name one subject that is included in the teacher education curriculum.

B. Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Write the development of Education from 1647-1820

Q 2: Write the features of American Education system.

Q 3: Write the role of state department of Education.

Q 4: What is a basic unit of the local board?

Q 5: Write the duties of the local school superintendent.

Q 6: What are city education boards?

Q 7: Write the pattern of pre-primary schools in USA.

C. Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: Write the historical background of the American Education system.

Q 2: Discuss the pattern of educational administration in America.

Q 3: Compare the education system of America and India.

Q 4: Briefly discuss the various stages of education in USA.

Q 5: Critically analyse the American Education system.

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