

**Q: Discuss the functions of Education as a social institution and what are the issues in our educational system according to your point of view.**

## **Education as Social Institution**

### **Introduction:**

- Social institutions have been created by man from social relation in society to satisfy basic needs such as stability, law and order and clearly defined decision-making and authority roles.
- Each of us as individual occupy a place or location in society. Each of us has status and a role or roles.
- These are social institutions that compel/force and control, Punish and reward. They could be “macro” social institution like the state and “micro” one like the family.

### **Meaning of Social Institution:**

- Social institution consists of a group of people who have come together for a common purpose.

### **Definition of Social institution:**

- Social institutions are mechanisms or pattern of social order focused on meeting social needs, such as government, economy, education, family, health care and religion.
- Social institutions are socially approved social structures that are devised to fulfil the desires of human beings.
- An institution is a social structure in which people cooperate and which influence the behavior of people and the way they live.

## **Education as Social Institution**

### **Introduction:**

- Education is a long life process including both formal and informal institutions of learning.
- Education is not just passing our school, college and getting a degree, it is much more than passing a particular exam.
- Education is the social institution through which society provides its members with important knowledge including basic facts, job skills and cultural norms and values.

### **Definition of Education:**

- It is the social institution that formally socialize members of family.
- It refers to the process through which skills, knowledge and values are transmitted from teachers to learners.
- It refers to the various ways through which knowledge is passed on to the other members of society. This knowledge can be in the form of factual data, norms and values.

### Structure of Education Institution:

- The structure of education institution can be classified as:
  - 1) Formal Education
  - 2) Informal Education
  - 3) Non-formal Education

#### Formal Education:

- Classroom-based education and provided by trained teaching and non-teaching personnel/staff.
- This type of education system is controlled and regulated by government.
- Limited to a specific period.
- Well defined and systematic curriculum.
- Given by specially qualified teachers.
- Observes strict discipline.
- Example: High School Education.

#### Informal Education:

- Education not imparted in a school or any institution and consists of experiences and actually living in the family of community.
- The type of education is controlled and regulated by government.
- Incidental and spontaneous.
- No prescribed time table or curriculum.
- Not imparted by any specialized agency (Teacher etc.).
- May be negative.
- Example: The mother teaching her child.

#### Non-Formal Education:

- Organized educational activity that take place outside a formal set-up.
- Part-time and activity may be timed in a variety of ways of meet the needs and convenience of learners.
- Well-planned and structured education programs.
- Example: Livelihood training.

#### Functions of education:

- Like other institutions, educational institutions also have some Manifest and Latent functions:

#### Socialization:

- Human beings are social animal, in order to learn social skills and social norms of society, one have to socialize.
- Educational institutions provides us the platform to interact with different people of our own age and common interest.
- It helps us to groom our personality and acquire/get quality personality traits.

### **Cultural Transmission:**

- The system of education transmits our cultural norms and values to the next generations.
- During education, the teacher while teaching, learns the socio-cultural norms.
- While teaching he/she adds his/her experience in the knowledge what he received from his parents and teachers.
- In this way, our cultural values and norms are transmitted to our next generation.

### **Development of moral and social values:**

- Moral and social values affect every individual in dealing with society. Through proper education, they would be given chance to acquire social and moral values which would help them to become the reason for the society to achieve positive changes towards success.

### **Cultural Innovation:**

- Educational institutions create and transmit cultural values.
- The teachers do not transmit the same knowledge without change. By adding his experience he makes knowledge up to date and according to the requirement of society. The teachers educate the new generation thus brings social changes.
- Center of higher education bring change in our lives through research conducted by the scholars.

### **Patriotism:**

- Patriotism develops through education in the young generation.
- The children recognize themselves and their duties towards nation and their country.

### **Career Selection:**

- Education helps individuals to think about their career what they want to pursue in future.
- Education directs towards selection of future occupation.
- It also provides occupational training and teaches the skills needed to perform roles in increasing specialized occupations.

### **Social and economic Mobility:**

- The education system is expected to provide opportunities for social and economic mobility by selecting and training the ablest youth for a higher-status in society.

### **Social control and change:**

- Society is said to be dynamic and progressive and not a station. Education helps every person to develop their skills that are needed to control and change the society positively.

### **Promotion of Social and political integration:**

- The most important latent function of educational institutions is promotion of social and political integration.
- Education unifies the individuals in society and creates a sense of solidarity among them.

- It helps the individuals and groups to cooperate with one another.

#### **Agent of Change:**

- Education is life that is full of different experiences which would make every person become an agent of change that is essential for the society.

#### **Adjustment in Society:**

- Education grooms the personality of individuals which helps him/her to adjust in any environment, group, community and society.

#### **Rational Thinking:**

- Education helps us to think rationally and conclude any event, situation and issues with reasonable explanation.

### **Problem of Education System of Pakistan**

#### **Lack of Uniformity:**

- The education system of Pakistan is not uniform. It means multiple educational systems are at work in the country.
- For Example: Different schools in the public and private sectors including religious institutions have different mediums of instructions, curricula and examination system.

#### **Outdated Curricula:**

- Outdated Curricula are also one of the problems of the education sector in Pakistan.
- The curricula acts as a tool to achieve the educational goals of a nation.
- Unfortunately, the school curriculum in our country is seldom updated as per the demands of changing times.

#### **Lack of trained Faculty:**

- The proper training of teachers is necessary for quality education in any country.
- Unfortunately, teachers training is ignored in our country and our teachers lack qualities of proper teaching. They cannot educate their students in better way.

#### **Lack of Professional Teachers:**

- One of the problems related to education sector of Pakistan is low quality teachers.
- Schools in Pakistan especially private sector lack professional and quality teachers.
- They are not well educated so they can't teach their students according to requirements.

#### **Poor Supervision:**

- Among many problems of the education sector, poor supervision is also a very serious issue in Pakistan.

- Examination centers are not properly supervised and checked during exams and many students adopt method of cheating during examination. So, our country can not produce quality officers and our country is in the hand of corrupt people.

#### **Low Budget:**

- The low budgetary allocation is on top of the problems of the education sector in Pakistan.
- Schools lacks many facilities such as absence of required instruments in laboratory absence of modern books in library. Computerized and experiment based education system is need of our country which cannot be achieved with this low budget.

#### **Poor examination Method:**

- Poor examination method is one of the most important educational issues in Pakistan.
- Students are not properly checked and supervise during exams and they pass their examinations through cheating.
- Papers are also not checked properly and paper checkers spoil the future of many students for the sake of money.
- Corruption in examination system cause dull students to get high marks and as a result the intelligent and hard working students are spoiled.

#### **Lack of Infrastructure:**

- Around 49% of public schools in Pakistan are without more than one of the basic faculties like the boundary wall, electricity and furniture while 11% have none of the above.

#### **Use of Out-Dated Chalk-Talk teaching Method:**

- Lack of modern teaching method is also a big educational issue in Pakistan.
- Out-dated Chalk-Talk teaching method is still working in Pakistan.
- Research and experimental based education in Pakistan is the need of hour.

#### **High Fee Structure of Private Schools:**

- High fee structure of private schools in also a big educational issue in Pakistan. Parents are unable to send their children to private schools for quality and experimental based education.
- As a result, many students remain illiterate.

#### **Less Job Facilities:**

- Students in Pakistan face the problem of less job facility in Pakistan. A great number of students in Pakistan are without job even after graduation. As a result, parents are not sending their children to schools for education.

#### **Conclusion:**

- Social institutions work as back bone of a society. Without the social institution, a society cannot achieve fulfilment in term of economy, academy or relationships. When there are no rules and regulations in a society people are more likely to indulge in crime and other harmful activities.