

Education in Global Perspective

Employers don't know potential workers

- Rely on schools to weed out the incapable
- Use diplomas and degrees as sorting devices

Academic Achievement

Why doesn't everyone get an A?

Luck / fate / religion (not scientific)

Biology - Genetics, ADHD

Psychology - ADHD, Stress, Anxiety, Depression,
Positive / Negative reinforcement,
Personality, Laziness, Sleep and Eating
Habits

Culture

Norms

Values

Attitudes - teachers expectations

Social Structure (- The arrangement of...)

Networks - Study help, notes, advice

Groups - GPA Policy, Study hours

Institution - Property tax funding schools

Family

Education and Industrialization

By 1918, all USA states had mandatory education laws - Complete 8th grade OR Turn 16 (13, 14 yo)

USA used the public education to AMERICANIZE immigrants

Functionalist Perspective

How "something" functions and benefits society

Manifest Functions - Intended benefits } from people's
Latent Functions - Unintended benefits } actions

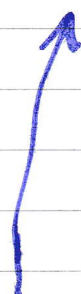
e.g. Education's Manifest function

- Teach knowledge and skills
 - Reading, Writing, Arithmetic
- Computer literacy
- Social integration
- Culture transmission of values
- Inclusion: helping people to become part of society
- Social placement
 - Gatekeeping
 - Tracking
- Replacing family functions
 - Sex education
 - Childcare

Conflict Perspective

How "something" reproduces the social class structure

e.g. Education's Latent function

- Hidden curriculum : Attitude and unwritten rules of behaviour
 - Obedience to authority
 - Manners
 - Speech
 - Conformity
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Unequal funding (public/private/religious schools)

Family background (cultural capital)

Symbolic Perspective

Rist Research

- Gatekeeping : Opening select "gates" for social placement
- Tracking : Sorting of students on ability level for gatekeeping

Social class was underlying basis for tracking

Early tracking sticks and continues through school life

Teacher Expectations affect grades

When students "signal" they are good students, teachers reward them with better grades

Problems in US Education and their Solutions

To make their schools look good, school officials can

- Grade Inflate : Higher grades for same work
- Social Promote : Passing students to the next level when they have not learnt the basics

which then causes

Functional illiteracy : a high-school graduate with difficulty with reading and maths

- Cheat : Changing student's answers, faking graduation rates

Solutions

- Raising teacher's standards so they are properly qualified and motivated
- Raising student's standards
- Zero tolerance for cheating

Violence - School shootings

- Have actually gone down since 2000
- Code Blue drill : Shades/blinds closed
Everyone silent