

## **EDUCATION - MEANING, CONCEPT AND SCOPE**

The word 'education' has a very wide meaning. It is as old as the human race. It is an essential human virtue. Man has become 'man' through education. It is a never ending process of inner growth and development and its period stretches from cradle to grave. Education is very important for the progress of individual and society. It is through education that man develops his thinking and reasoning, problem solving and creativity, skills, values, attitudes and intelligence etc. In fact man's entire life is education. Education is very important for the progress of individual and society.

### **Many Concepts of Education**

The term 'education' is very comprehensive. Its implications are rich and varied. Everybody has its own concept of education, which is influenced by his own outlook on life and his past experiences in a limited field. It gives rise to many concepts of education. The other aspects for it are as follows:

1. **Complex nature of human personality:** The subject-matter of education is the development of human personality which is a complex thing. It has different aspects. Emphasis on one or the other aspect has lead to different meaning and definitions.
2. **Complexity of human environment:** Education is a process which enables an individual to adjust himself to the environment. But this environment is different in different countries. It has also different aspects-social, physical, cultural etc. Thinkers have given meaning and definition to education in terms of their own environments.
3. **Many philosophies of life:** There are different philosophies of life and different philosophers, have defined education in their own way. All these different opinions and conditions have led to

different interpretations and meaning of education. Hence, the term 'education' denotes many meanings. It is interpreted by different persons on the basis of their own background and grooming.

### **Meaning of Education**

1. Etymological Meaning (Derivation and Origin): Education is supposed to be derived from many sources as described below:

(i) **Educatum**: Some educationists believe that the word 'Education' is derived from the Latin word 'Educatum', which means 'To bring out'. In this sense, the meaning of education is to bring out the better qualities of the individual.

(ii) **Educare**: According to Ross, the word 'Education' is derived from the word 'Educare' which means 'to bring up' or 'to raise'. It means that education is that process which brings up or rears the individual in the right way.

(iii) **Educere**: Wagnall says that the word 'Education' is derived from the Latin word 'Educere', which means 'To lead out'. In this sense, the meaning of education is that process which reacts on the hidden qualities of the individual.

(iv) **E-Duco**: The origin of the word 'Education' is considered also from 'E' and 'Duco'. Duco means 'I lead' and E means 'out of'. Hence, education is that activity which draws out the intrinsic powers of a man.

### **Indian Concept of Education**

Education being an important social activity, its meanings have been changing through the ages due to changes in social and physical conditions. Different educationists, therefore, interpreted it differently, at different times. Some of the most popular definitions given by our educational thinkers are given below: According to Rigveda, "Education is something which makes a man self-reliant."

2. According to Upanishads, "Education is that whose end product is salvation."

3. "Education is that which makes a man of good character and useful to the world." - Yajnavalkya

4. Panini, the famous Indian Grammarian says, "Human education means the training which one gets from nature."

5. According to Kannad, the ancient Indian philosopher."Education means development of self-contentment."

6. According to Yajamvala the famous Indian Legislator "Education is that which makes a man of good character and useful to the world."

7. According to well known Indian statesman, Kautilya, "Education means training for the country and love for the nation."

8. The famous Indian Philosopher Shankaracharya considers education as the realization of the self.

9. According to Guru Nanak, "Education is self-realization and service of the people." Coming to the modern age, we find a number of Indian thinkers and exponents of the ancient Indian concept.

10. According to Vivekananda a modern exponent of vedantic philosophy, "Education is the manifestation of divine perfection, already existing in man. The aim of all education, of all training should be man making." He further explains, "It is man making-education all round that we want. We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect expounded and by which one can stand on one's own feet. What we require is life building, man making, character making, assimilation of ideas." He emphasizes upon the exposition of man's complete individuality. As from the vedantic point of view, the essence of man is the spirituality. We need an education that quickens, that vivifies, that kindles the urge of spirituality, inherent in every mind."

11. According to R.N. Tagore, "Education means enabling the mind to find out that ultimate truth which emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us the wealth, not of things but of inner light, not of power but of love, making truth its own and giving expression to it."

12. According to Aurobindo Ghosh, "Education is helping the growing soul to draw out that is in itself."

13 According to Mahatma Gandhi, "By education I mean drawing out the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit."

14. According to Dr. Zakir Hussain, "Education is the process of individual mind getting its full possible development.... It is long school which lasts a life time."

15. Humayun Kabir considers education as a "dynamic process which in totality changes with the changing situations and developing circumstances." The Indian concept of education is well summarized by the University Education Commission.

"Education, according to Indian tradition, is not merely a means to earning a living; nor it is only a nursery of thought or school for citizenship. It is initiation into the life of spirit, a training of human souls in the pursuit of truth and the practice of virtue. It is a second birth 'dvityam Janma'."

### **Western Concept of Education**

The western thinkers have also tried their best to give a definition of education with the help of some definitions. Efforts are made to make the meaning of education clear. In fact, modern concept of education owes much to western thinkers. Some definitions are as follows:

1. Plato, "Education is the capacity to feel pleasure, pain at the right moment. It develops in the body and the soul of the pupils all the beauty and all the perfection which he is capable of."

2. Aristotle, "Education is the creation of a sound mind in a sound body... it develops man's faculty, especially his mind so that he may be able to enjoy the contemplation of supreme 'truth, goodness and beauty' of which perfect happiness essentially consists."

3. Pestalozzi, "Education is natural harmonious and progressive development of man's innate powers."

4. According to Froebel, "Education is unfoldment of what is already enfolded in the germ. It is the process through which the child makes internal external."

5. According to Spencer, "Education is complete living."

6. According to Thompson, "Education is the influence of the environment on the individual with a view to produce a permanent change in his habits, behaviour of thought and attitude."

7. John Adams, "Education is conscious and deliberate process in which one personality acts upon another in order to modify the behaviour of that other by the communication and manipulation of knowledge."

8. According to T.P. Nunn, "Education is the complete development of the individuality of the child so that he can make an original contribution to human life according to the best of his capacity."

9. Ross, "The aim of education is the development of valuable personality and spiritual individuality."

10. According to John Dewey, "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 fulfil his possibilities."

**Characteristics of the Concept of Education (Descriptive Approach) Following are the characteristics of the concept of education:**

1. Education is a life long process: Education starts in the mother's womb and it continues till death. Man is learning one thing or in the other at every moment. The sequence of learning through the medium of experience goes on upto death.

2. Education Helps in Individual Development: Education is a process of individual development. It carries on the individual's physical, intellectual, aesthetic, moral, economic, spiritual and social development so that the human being may get rid of animal instincts and become civilised. According to J.S. Mill "What ever helps to shape the human being, to make the human being, - what he is, or to hinder him from being what he is not-is part of his education.

3. Education is a Dynamic Process: Education is not a static but a dynamic process. It helps a person, always towards progress. The education changes according to the changing conditions of time, place and society. It also reconstructs the society. John Dewey, a famous American educationist remarks, "Education is the process of living through a continuous reconstruction of experiences.

4. Education Helps Individual Develop his Innate Powers: Every individual has innate capacities. Education helps in developing those natural capacities. If the child is dumb from birth, education does not give it the opportunity to speak. If the child has faculty of speech, he can become a good speaker with the help and support of education. Education provides every person with the opportunity of developing according to his capacities. Gandhi ji rightly says, "By education I mean an all round drawing out of the best in child and man-body, mind and spirit." Education Helps in

5. Behavioural Change: Individual brings about change in his behaviour by getting education. If we compare an educated and uneducated person, the behaviour of the educated person must be good otherwise the education of the person will be regarded incomplete. Ruskin said. "You do not educate a man by telling him what he knows not but by making him what he was not."

6. Education is a Bi-polar process: Adams talks about bi-polar process. Ross also regards it a bi-polar process. According to Ross, "Like a magnet, education has two poles, it is a bi-polar process.

The teacher influences a student by his characteristics and makes his life a success. Sir John Adams held the view that the one end was the educator and the other end was the educand. But this approach in the extreme form is not acceptable to the modern educators.

7. Education is a Tri-polar process: John Dewey has regarded education as tri-polar process. According to Dewey the process of education cannot be talked about in the absence of social environment.

8. Education-a Process of Individual Adjustment: Education is a process of individual adjustment Education helps the individual in making adjustment with his own self, with parents, relatives, friends, teachers or members of the society at large. Man is a social animal. If a person is not able to adjust himself in every field, his personality cannot be balanced. In fact, the main aim of education is to enable the child to adjust himself according to the environment.

9. Education Theoretical as Well as Practical in Nature: Man's social, religious, moral, cultural, economic and intellectual development takes place because of theoretical and practical form of education. No doubt, more stress is laid on theoretical knowledge in schools and colleges but the meaning of theoretical knowledge cannot be complete without the practical form of education. In the absence of practical experience, the individual has to face many difficulties in the process of adjustment.

10. Education is a Powerful Instrument of Social Change: Education helps in bringing about a change in society. Economic, moral, cultural, social, scientific, spiritual and educational change is possible only through education. Education is a powerful instrument of social reconstruction. Education is a social process. It is a social necessity. It is the biggest investment of society. It is the life insurance policy of the individual.

John Dewey rightly points out, "Education is the process of living through a continuous reconstruction of experiences." In fact, this continuous reconstruction of experience brings about that social change which is necessary for living in changed circumstances.

11. Education is the Need of Modern Age: The primitive society had mainly three needs i.e. food, clothing and shelter. Modern society has more needs than the needs of Ancient society. Modern society needs food, clothing, shelter and education. The modern age is a scientific age. When we talk of national and international understanding, the need of education appears in every field. That is why these days we talk of adult education, social education, population education, formal education, informal education and non-formal education.

12. Nature of Education is Scientific and Artistic; Education is based on scientific attitude but it keeps in mind the fixed facts and like education, the whole life of man, school, college and university is the laboratory of education. Education does research in many topics related with various aspects of man such as social, political, religious, moral, cultural and economic etc. and verifies. In its artistic form, education builds the personality of man. Education is science because:

- (a) It makes a systematic and methodical study of many facts.
- (b) It makes use of the scientific method of observation and experimentation.
- (c) It discovers and makes a number of generalizations about its methodology, learning, memory, attention, interest, motivation and curriculum.
- (d) Education is an art because: (a) A teacher is just like an artist. He/she moulds the raw material

of the child into a better, pure and noble person. (b) The teacher is inspired by practical side of education. He/she has practical aims in view. The main aim of education is to help the child in getting knowledge, integrated growth and social and vocational efficiency.

## **Scope of Education**

According to Dictionary meaning, scope refers to the extent of range of view, outlook, application, operation and effectiveness. By this meaning, 'scope' means the breadth, comprehensiveness, variety of learning experiences to be provided in the educational process. The scope of education can be listed as follows:

1. Very wide scope: We know that the process of education is not different from the process of life. It is rather its supplementary system. So, the scope of education will be the entire field of life of man and the problems of education will be the problems of life. So, the scope of education is very wide and long, as wide as the world and as long as the history of man on the earth.

2. Independent discipline: Among the wide sphere of life, education is now considered as an independent discipline for study. Here, the nature of the some aspects of this discipline is given.

(i) Educational Psychology: There are number of such problems related to the education and development of child which particularly require help from psychology for their solution. Educational psychology studies physical and mental development of children, their personality, intelligence, capacity, aptitude, memory, imagination, motivation, social and community development etc. It also studies different forms of learning methods, conditions of learning etc.

(ii) Educational Philosophy: Under educational philosophy, mainly the aims of education and their nature and related problems are studied. In it nature, purpose, need and importance of education along with relation between philosophy and education, impact of philosophy on education and different educational beliefs are studied.

(iii) Educational Sociology: Under this aspect of education, the social background of education and its sociology bases are studied. In this division, the nature of society, culture, internal activities of the society, different social tendencies and their impact on education are studied. The process



of socialisation, relationship between culture and education, society and education etc. are also form part of this division.

(iv) Educational Administration: This aspect of education studies principles and problems concerned with educational administration. It includes-establishment of schools, their management, supervision and control, their inspection system, appointment of managers, teachers, principals and other employees, their salary and working conditions etc. This branch also discuss conforming of education to current social needs, equality of educational opportunities, health and hygiene for students and changes required etc.

(v) History of Education: This is an important aspect of education. The history of education helps in knowing the early educational thoughts and in solving different educational problems.

(vi) Teaching Methods: This branch studies methods of teaching of different subjects. For different subjects, different teaching methods are required though there may be some common thing in them. It mainly discuss the nature of teaching of different subjects, need and aims of teaching, text-books, teaching and learning activity, evaluation of success and failure of teaching that subject.

(vii) Comparative Education: This branch makes a comparative study of the educational systems of other countries. This study enables us to know the differences existing in the various systems, equalities and inequalities and the reasons there of and the impact each is making on the other.

(viii) Other fields of study: Now, new subjects are developed in the field of education and the study of these subjects is essential. These new subjects are- Social and Adult Education, Teacher Education, Teaching Technology, Guidance, Measurement and Evaluation in Education, Educational Statistics, Library Education etc.

3. Educational problems: There are number of educational problems and they go on increasing as well. Some examples are- Problems at different levels of education and their remedies, their basic causes and means of removing them, curriculum, medium of instruction. stagnation and wastage in education, administration and control by the govt. etc.

4. Education-Broader than obtaining knowledge: Education is broader than formal schooling. Education must be related to the activities of the society in which it is founded. Education, in its

wider understanding is life and includes manners, values, moral, tastes and so on. Education of the whole child is more than teaching him more knowledge of facts or skills, his emotions, attitudes must be included in the total process of changing his behaviour.

