

Interdependence of Society & Education

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Social System

- A system of interrelated mutually dependent parts which cooperate (more or less) to preserve a recognizable whole and to satisfy some purpose or goal.
- Social system refers to the orderly arrangement of parts of society and plurality of individuals interacting with each other.
- Social system presupposes a social structure consisting of different parts which are interrelated in such a way as to perform its functions.
- To perform its functions every society sets up various institutions.
- Five major complexes of institutions are identified: familial institutions, religious institutions, educational institutions, economic institutions and political institutions. These institutions form sub-systems within social system or larger society.

Education

- Education as a sub-system performs certain functions for the society as whole.
- There are also functional relations between education and other sub-systems.
- For example, Education trains the individuals in skills that are required by economy. Similarly education is conditioned by the economic institutions.

Role of Education

- Now we will examine the role of education for the society &
- the relationship between education and other sub-system of society in terms of different perspective.

Role of Education in Functionalist Perspective

- The functionalist view of education tends to focus on the positive contributions made by education to the maintenance of social system.
- Emile Durkheim says that the major function of education is the transmission of society's norms and values.
- He said, "society can survive only if there exists among its members a sufficient degree of homogeneity; education perpetuates and reinforces this homogeneity by fixing in the child from the beginning the essential similarities which collective life demands".
- Without these essential similarities, cooperation, social solidarity and therefore social life would be impossible.
- The vital task of all society is the creation of solidarity.

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- This involves a commitment to society, a sense of belonging and feeling that the social unit is more important than the individual.
 - Durkheim argues that to become attached to society the child must feel in it something that is real, alive and powerful, which dominates the person and to which he also owes the best part of himself.
 - Education, in particular the teaching of history, provides this link between the individual and society.
 - If the history of his society is brought alive to the child, he will come to see that he is a part of something larger than himself, he will develop a sense of commitment to the social group.

Role of School

- Membership of the family is based on kinship relationship.
- Membership of the peer group is based on the personal choice.
- Durkheim argues that in complex industrial societies, the school serves a function which cannot be provided either by family or peer groups.
- Individuals must learn to cooperate with those who are neither their kin nor their friends. The school provides a context where these skills can be learned. As such, it is society in miniature, a model of the social system. In school, the child must interact with other members of the school in terms of fixed set of rules.

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- Like Durkheim, Parsons also argue that the school represents society in miniature.
 - The school prepares young people for their adult roles.
 - As part of this process, schools socialize young people into the basic values of society.
 - Finally, Parsons sees the educational system as an important mechanism for the selection of individuals for their future role in society. In his words, it “functions to allocate these human resources within the role structure of adult society”.
 - Thus, schools, by testing and evaluating students, match their talents, skills and capacities to the jobs for which they are best suited. The school is therefore seen as the major mechanism for role allocation.

Role - Davis & Moore

- Like Parsons, Davis and Moore see education as means of role allocation.
- They link the educational system more directly with the system of social stratification.
- Social stratification is a mechanism for ensuring that most talented and able members of society are allocated to those positions which are functionally most important for the society.

Role in Marxian Perspective- Althusser

- Chief among them are Louis Althusser, Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis.
- According to Althusser, a French philosopher, as a part of the superstructure, the educational system is ultimately shaped by infrastructure.
- It will therefore reflect the relations of production and serve the interests of the capitalist ruling class.

Althusser contd...

- For the ruling class to survive and prosper, the reproduction of labour power is essential.
- He argues that the reproduction of labour involves two processes.
- First, the reproduction of the skills necessary for an efficient labour force. Second, the reproduction of ruling class ideology and the socialization workers in terms of it.
- Althusser argues that the reproduction of labour power requires not only reproduction of its skills, but also, at the same time a reproduction of its submission to the ruling ideology.

Althusser contd...

- The submission is reproduced by a number of ideological State Apparatuses”, such as mass media, law, religion and education. Ideological State Apparatus transmit ruling class ideology thereby creating false class consciousness.
- Education not only transmits a general ruling class ideology which justifies and legitimates the capitalist system. It also reproduces the attitudes and behaviour required by the major groups in the division of labour.
- It teaches workers to accept and submit to their exploitation.

Bowles & Gintis

- Like Althusser, the American economists Bowles and Gintis argue that the major role of education in capitalist society is the reproduction of labour power.
- In particular, education contributes to the reproduction of workers with the kind of personalities, attitudes and outlooks which will fit them for their exploited status.
- Social relationships in schools replicate the hierarchical division of labour in their work place.

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- A large red speech bubble graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide. It consists of a rectangular body with a small triangular tail pointing downwards and to the left. The entire graphic is filled with a solid red color.
- It can be stated here that education performs certain role for the society. At the same time education is also conditioned by the social structure.

Social Orientation of Students and Teachers

- Parental attention also affect the child's behaviour at school as well as within the home.
- The amount and quality of child-adult interactions influence the development of the child's linguistic capacity, e.g., the range of his vocabulary.
- Likewise, the child's own interest in schooling, as distinct from that of his parents, and his sense of being at ease when at school, are affected both directly and indirectly by his awareness of the importance and value his parents explicitly and implicitly place on schooling.
- "The family itself thus constitutes a learning situation for the child. But the child is not simply 'moulded' by the family environment.
- He or she is an active agent who has to learn to interpret that environmen

Equality of Educational Opportunities in Education

- Education is supposed to eliminate social and economic inequality.
- A society which hold high promise of “Equality of status and of opportunity” for all and assures “the dignity of individual and the unity and integrity of the Nations”, has to attend to the mass spreading of learning much in the interest of creating the appropriate ground work for the social advancement.

Some Reasons for Equality of opportunity in Education

- For assuring the the success of democratic institutions
- The equality of educational opportunities will ensure rapid development of a nation.
- A closer link between the manpower needs of a society and the availability of a skilled personnel will develop.
- People with specialized talents for specialized jobs in a large number will be available and the society will be benefited.

Education as Medium of Cultural Reproduction

- The enduring function of education is the cultural reproduction. It has been recognised to be its main role.
- But in present time's family, school and teachers are no longer the only institutions that influence the growing generations.
- The movies, radio, record industry, and the television are strong instruments to impart education. Their appeal is direct.
- But these are not bound to any normative standard. Their basic standard is the marketability.
- The cultivated morality is challenged; established values are disregarded; mockery is made of humility and decency.

Education as Medium of Indoctrination

- Education is a process of indoctrination.
- The French Marxist philosopher Louis Althusser, held that school has always been used as an ideological apparatus.
- “The ruling ideology thus determines the dominated culture of society, influencing what is taught in school and universities and determining through education and the mass media what types of thought and language are seen as normal and are ‘rewarded’ by society.” (Althusser)

Example of Third
Republic of France
(French
government from
1870 to 1940)

- In France the Third Republic took church to be its worst enemy, since in the church schools was conducted anti-republican propaganda.
- Gambetta observed, “Clericalism, that is our enemy.”
- This position was further elaborated by Premier Waldeck Rousseau, a follower of Gambetta. He said that the real peril was the growing power of religious orders of monks and nuns and from the character of the teaching given by them in the religious schools they were conducting.

Examples from India

- NCF 2000
- NCF 2005

Education in Social Change and Mobility

- **Most Peaceful instrument of Social change & mobility**
- **Education stagnates changes**
- **Education mutually related to changes in other social systems**
- **Education leads to changes in other systems**
- **Education follows changes in other systems**



THANK YOU