

"Need of Informal Education"

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Abstract:-

The key to a better world is education. There is no end to the learning process. As a person develops, so does their capacity for learning. A person's parents and other family members teach them many things. Peer groups, friends, television, movies, radio, etc., teach people a lot, whether they go to school or not. This kind of education is known as "Informal" or "Incidental" since it is conducted in a less formal setting and relies on observation and imitation.

The 'Four Pillars of Education' were first outlined in a study for UNESCO by the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century, which was led by Jacques Delors (UNESCO, 1996). These tenets highlight the comprehensive nature of UNESCO's goals for education both in and out of the classroom. The paper argues that there are four main categories of learning that should underpin all formal education. When students are not physically present in a typical classroom environment, they may nevertheless get an education and instruction via distance learning, also known as distance education. Learning that takes place at a distance allows students "access to knowledge even when they are physically and temporally distant from the information provider." A crucial connection in society's progress in the 21st century is knowledge.

Key words:- Informal Education, Knowledge, Four Pillars of Education.

Introduction:-

• Formal education has a hierarchical structure, organized in chronological order within the education system. It starts in primary school and ends in university. Moreover, it includes programmes or courses dedicated to technical and professional education.

While formal education is essential for a person's development, non-formal education may supplement it by addressing gaps or providing skills that aren't taught in a more structured setting. Qualities and significance of informal learning :-

Non formal education is open to any age, origin and personal interest. Moreover, it's a relatively voluntary type of education, with diverse teaching methods and its end goal isn't a degree, but rather pure learning.

Via non formal and informal education, which have a great advantage thanks to modern technology, we can understand the world around us much better. Above all, everything we discover will stay embedded in our brains, because we've had our own drive to learn.

- Helps grow and mature, on a personal level, as well as within society. In many cases, teamwork or coexisting, can play an important role.
- By developing the skills of each individual, you boost their self-esteem.
- The capacity to learn and discover on your own develops a healthy critical attitude of your surroundings, social norms and power mechanisms.

Education that is structured, purposeful, and organized by a school or other educational organization. When it comes to people's pursuit of knowledge throughout their lives, non-formal education is most easily identified by the fact that it supplements, augments, or substitutes conventional education. It is often given to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get an education. Short courses, workshops, or seminars are the most common forms of delivery, and they are appropriate for participants of all ages; nevertheless, they do not always adhere to a continuous pathway-structure. The majority of the time, degrees earned via non-formal education either do not meet the requirements set forth by the appropriate national educational authority or are not recognized as formal credentials. Non-formal education encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including those that help adults and youths become more literate, educate children who are not in school, and provide training in areas such as social and cultural awareness, job readiness, and personal and professional development.(1) Although formal education is essential for a person's development, non-formal education may supplement it by addressing gaps or providing skills that aren't taught in a more structured setting. UNESCO, for example, emphasises the flexibility of non formal education and how it allows for more personalised learning to be developed for each person. In fact, this would be the most ideal model for them. (2)

Importance of non formal education :-

- ★ The founder of Wikipedia Jimmy Wales, is one of the greatest defenders of informal and non-formal education. He always emphasizes on lifelong continuous learning in a voluntary and experiential manner to make better citizens.
- ★ We can take non-formal education anywhere, at any age, as per our wish.
- ★ -In order to better understand the world around us and to gain in-depth knowledge in its context, informal education is our means of acquiring knowledge.
- ★ Non-formal education gives us the energy to discover our inherent abilities.
- ★ -We all have some good qualities and different types of skills, by promoting those skills it teaches us a self-respect.
- ★ There are various job opportunities around us, we can prepare for these opportunities.
- ★ This is also a good option for self employment.
- ★ It is a student-centric education system.
- ★ The study caters to the diverse needs of the aspiring students and fulfills their thirst for knowledge.

Informal education is the best way to provide and provide liberal, flexible, standard, affordable and qualitative education as per the needs of the individual, society and country.

It is purposefully and systematically created and has a clearcut goal to provide education to the mass, it is very flexible and liberal type of education taking the numerous differences of individual into account, etc.

This is a very good option for all the students who have dropped out of school and restart their studies. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, this has become a very good means to make all the citizens 100% literate. It is not expensive and therefore everyone can afford it. It is flexible and adopts itself to suit the needs and skills of learner's abilities. For example: If the learner has interest in Legal studies, then the learner is provided Non-formal Education related to Legal studies.

OBJECTIVES OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION :-

Chandra and Shah (1987) in their book mentioned about objectives of Non-Formal Education given by the Government of India: They are as follows-

- 1) To motivate which are dropouts or such children who have not gone to primary school and enter them into the fold of Non-formal Education,
- 2) To develop in children various linguistic (Study of language) skills and enable them to listen, speak, read and write properly,
- 3) To promote expertise in children with regard to work experience and the occupations in which they are engaged in their community, so that their productivity can be enhanced to make self sufficient,
- 4) To make children understand and appreciate the scientific phenomena (a fact or situation observed to exist or happen) in everyday life,
- 5) To develop in children skills, habits, attitudes necessary for healthy living,
- 6) To make children understand and appreciate culture heritage, and tradition of the country,
- 7) To develop in children functional numeracy. (3)

Students of Non-Formal Education:-

There are some peoples which do not get the formal education system due to there circumstances like poverty, disability, illiteracy, unemployment etc .Therefore, they persuing Non-Formal Education and upgrade there knowledge.

1) Age group of 06 years to 14 years - Out of School Children:-

If the children of 6 to 14 years of age are not able to get the required primary teachers, since our state government has the full responsibility of providing primary education, informal education proves helpful to them in getting this education here. There are many reasons due to which many people remain deprived of primary education. In which if seen, due to various reasons like various ostentation of the society, inequality between men and women, children remain without school.

2) Lack of jobs -

In India, a large number of people either take primary education or people of middle class and upper class hold high positions and do some small jobs. But today we are observe that there is a huge shortage of Government jobs in our country . Because of which the youth are seen being deprived of jobs.

Therefore, along with getting a degree in one subject, informal education also appears successful for practicing in another subject.

"India has 240 universities managing over 5000 colleges of various courses thus bringing out millions of graduates every year. Almost 50 to 60% of the graduates are still searching for jobs after their graduation, due to lack of employability opportunities, poor communication skills, less subject knowledge and entrepreneurship quality. (Wisdom News, 2012) Therefore, helped such students could be by Non-formal Education to improve their employability skills."(3)

3) All age group and Disabled people :-

There are a large number of people with various types of disabilities in our country. Therefore, not everyone can get admission in special schools to study them. So informal education is a very good means for the study and appreciation of such disabled people. For example one of the youth wrote blog on his blog about need of non- formal education.

"Non-formal education can be education about climate change, making games, writing and many other themes. For example, in my school I'm currently not learning about how to write blogs, or about mental health or human rights in some parts of the world. But that didn't let my curiosity stop searching about themes I'm curious about. I've realised that having a non-formal education will not only bring you the knowledge you've been searching for, but it will also bring new people in your life who have the same interests as you."(4)

4) Women and Girls:-

Due to various customs, conventions and traditions in our country, even today many girls are married at young age. She is deprived of education and is called a woman. So today this informal education is very good and meaningful for girls and women. One of the Pakistan's Researcher also express the importance of non formal education in Pakistan. " According to the Planning Commission of the Non- Formal Basic Education Schools (1998) of Pakistan , these schools have to complement the formal school by offering education in those areas where regular primary schools do not exist and where children are out of schools for various reasons. This school model required fewer resources. The community provides the school building and manages the school. The teachers of NFBES do not have to worry about transfers and, therefore, work with a missionary zeal"(5)

Conclusion:-

In this way we conclude that for our country and their peoples development we need informal education in this Era to Universalize Elementary Education, to Cope with Limited Resources, the Inadequacies of Formal Education, to Enable the Pupils to Learn While they Earn , we need.

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