

FUNCTIONS OF EDUCATION

Introduction

This topic introduces the basics of the functions of education. So, it is necessary to introduce the sociology of education to understand education functions easily. There is a relationship between sociology and education as sociology studies the structure and functions of the social system, while education is one of the important functions of any social system.

What is sociology?

Sociology is a discipline that studies social behavior and social interactions. Therefore, sociology is a scientific study on human behavior in groups to describe a wide variety of behavior patterns. It concerns social facts in politics, society, economics, education, etc.

Functions of Sociology

Sociology performs several functions in society, including:

1. It assists in the analysis and clarification of different types of relationships within the society that produce such social institutions and associations through which the behavior of individuals is organized and controlled.
2. Sociology exposes members of the society to how authority and power are derived within the society and why specific values, customs, beliefs, and practices are upheld.
3. Sociology also attempts to establish the links between the different social sub-systems.
4. Sociology intimates individuals with the changes within society and the effects of such changes on human existence.
5. Sociology examines the human background and various forms of orientation within society.
6. Sociology also operates within the dominion of human needs.

Reflection

List other functions of sociology.

What is Education?

Education has different definitions depending on the purpose it is meant to serve and perspectives. According to the sociologist's perspective, education is an activity that goes on in a society where its aims and methods depend on the nature of the society in which it takes place. In the specific term, education is a means of making individuals understand their society and its structures.

Sociology of Education

The sociology of education is defined as the study of the relations between education and society. It is an investigation of the sociological processes involved in an educational institution. It is concerned with educational aims, methods, institutions, administration, and curricula in relation to the economic, political, religious, social and cultural forces of the society in which they function. It highlights the influence of social life and social relationships on personality development. Thus, the sociology of education emphasizes sociological aspects of educational phenomena and institutions.

Reflection

What are main impact on education on personal development?

Education and Society

Education can be explained as the nourishment of an individual to attain the natural capacity in life. This could be done through the training and upbringing of such individuals in the traditional and modern ways to become acceptable members of the society in which they live.

Parents and teachers are responsible for training of individuals as the parents train children at home and teachers in schools. Individuals are trained to obtain knowledge, skills, and values to live successfully in society. In this time, the school has a great role in the training of individuals due to the complexities of life in modern times as a result of technology that forced society to great change.

Reflection

In our society, analysis of how the parents fulfill their responsibility of training a young child.

Socialization of Family and School

Socialization can be described as a process of individual adaptation to conventional behavior patterns. In a primitive society, the transmission of the culture was major part of education. It majorly focused on how the children are given what we call primary education in the family without ever entering a school. At the age of five or six children start to go to school, the family already has a great deal of educational care and nurture. Much of the culture has, by this age, been transmitted.

The schools have come to consider that they have to care for their pupils for a good moral upbringing to complete the role of the family.

The following are factors of socialization:

- Family is responsible for providing basic life needs such as feeding, clothing, shelter, medical and so on. It is expected to transmit cultural values and norms to young people so they can fully integrate into society. Family is the child's first contact, so basic social values, language, life skills, desirable character, and norms are learned first in the family. The home assists in laying the foundation for the personality and character development of a child.
- The school is another important agent of socialization. After the home, the child is exposed to the school, which also influences him. It socializes the child, allows him to manifest his qualities, potentialities, capabilities, natures, drives and motives and helps develop his personality. For the child, the teacher's personality and character provide a mode he strives to copy, thereby consciously molding his personality. This is true only of teachers who succeed in arousing an attachment and love of themselves in the child's mind.
- The peer group is the child's own friends and equals with similar drives, motives and interests. Peer groups take shape early in the child's life. .Examples of peer groups are play groups (siblings, neighbors' children, schoolmates) and age mates. In short, peer groups are social groups that influence the behavior of their members.
- Muslim society believes that Allah had a purpose when He created the world and that this purpose has been explained by the prophets who came into the world to tell people how they should behave so that Allah's purpose might be achieved. For this reason, Islam rises to certain types of behavior. Islam is, therefore a whole way of life. Thus, Mosque helps in the socialization process of its members of Muslim Society. The religious leaders (Sheikh) are expected to demonstrate a high level of morality to serve as role models in Muslim society and others.

- As an agent of socialization, the mass media have their own technical Characteristics. The different forms of media (social media, TV, websites, radio, etc.) are largely because of technical characteristics, which children use in different ways. Hence, different types of messages are passed through mass media. Children need to be guided in using their leisure hours to support and utilize mass media to discourage the cultivation and learning of negative ideas.

Reflection

In the above paragraphs, factors of socialization were discussed. In your opinion, which factor influences children/young people more than others? Why?

How does social media impact on teaching and learning in our schools? How do we solve these problems?
