

**Quadrant-I          E Text**

<b>Details of Module and its Structure</b>	
<b>MODULE DETAIL</b>	
<b>Subject Name</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Contemporary Indian Education</b>
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>EDU501</b>
<b>Module Title</b>	<i>Education and socio-cultural context: education as discipline and inter disciplinary in nature; education as an instrument of social change; influence of education on society and family; socio cultural influences on aims of education.</i>
<b>Module Code</b>	<b>CIE016</b>
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<p>After going through this lesson student will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analyze education in social and cultural context.</li> <li>• to make connections between ideas and concepts across different disciplinary boundaries associated with education.</li> <li>• Analyse the role of education in social change.</li> <li>• promote positive attitude by overcoming the resistance to change.</li> <li>• to become an agent of social transformation for the removal of various disparities and evaluate the impact of education on society and family.</li> </ul>
<b>Keywords</b>	Education, socio-cultural, disciplinary, interdisciplinary, social change, society, family.

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## 1. Introduction

The term education is commonly uttered by many of us but understood by a very few in its right perspective. It is as old as human race, though during the course of time, its meaning and objectives have inevitably undergone certain changes. Therefore, understanding the concept of education will help you to develop insight about the purpose of becoming a teacher and help you while educating your students. This chapter will discuss education in socio-cultural context, disciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of education, role of education in bringing social change, educational influences on society and family and also highlights socio-cultural influences on the aims of education.

## 2. What is Education?

Education is the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. Etymologically speaking, the word education is derived from the Latin word 'educare' which means 'to bring up' or 'to nourish' i.e. bringing up of child with certain ends and aims. According to few others the word education is originated from another Latin term 'educere' which means 'to lead out' or 'to draw out' i.e. drawing out what is ingrained in the child or leading him from darkness to light. Some others believe that it has been derived from the words 'educatum' which means 'the act of teaching or training' which means to train or prepare them to play an appropriate role in society and gain respect. Thus, the meaning of these root words lead us to believe that education aims to provide a nourishing environment that would facilitate and develop the potentialities in an individual.

## 3. Education and socio cultural context

The socio-cultural context of education has changed over the past few decades. Since from the Vedic period to British period there is a great shift in the system of education for example, from gurukuls and madrassas to smart and flipped classrooms nowadays, which is a consequence of technological advancements which ultimately brings change in societal structure and advancement in culture. If we talk about education in contemporary India everybody has the right to education irrespective of caste, color, income, status unlike in the past where only effluents had the right to education. In the present era children come from a variety of family situations, income strata and cultural backgrounds as a result schools have faced unique challenges as they strive to provide equal educational opportunities to all students. Therefore, schools must address to enhance their effectiveness in education and ensure progress can occur. According to research studies, factors such as family income, family structure and parent's education have been shown as an indicator that influence child's educational opportunities. It is felt that education should not only aim at imparting knowledge but should develop all aspects of student's personality. Without improvement the society will stagnate. Education is not only to reflect the social conditions but also to improve them. With the advancement of science and technology our ways of living are also undergoing tremendous

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change. If we do not cope with the present advancement there would be 'cultural lag'. So education must adapt to itself to the changing conditions. In short, it is necessary that students should be taught to get inspiration from the inspiring past, to live in the dynamic present and to face the challenging future.

#### 4. Education as discipline

Before we discuss the nature of education as discipline at first, we must know about the meaning of an academic discipline. An academic discipline is a branch of knowledge that involves expertise, people, projects, communities, challenges, studies, inquiry and research areas that are strongly associated with a given scholastic subject area or college department. For example, the branches of science are commonly referred as the scientific disciplines like physics, mathematics and biology.

As far as education is concerned, it is relatively a new discipline that combines aspects of Psychology, history, philosophy, sociology and some practical studies. The discipline of education is nowadays a compulsory subject used for educating teacher educators. The main problems and questions education deals with: what content should be taught to pupil and students (the question of curriculum)? How should the content be taught (the question of teaching method)? What other educational goals shall be pursued in addition to teaching knowledge and skills (the question of values)? In other words, education has to answer the questions of truth, learning and morals. It has to reflect on the higher goals of education beyond passing on random knowledge and skills. The study of education would be the reflexive effort of looking at the reality of education and trying to understand how it is practiced.

As a process, education has many fold objectives from development of an individual to the development of the whole society by producing effective teachers and researchers who understands the principles, factors and components to guide and control the process of education. Broadly, discipline of education can be defined as the study of the process of education. The aim of the study of the process of education is the evaluation and the improvement of this process.

There are various programs and levels of academic study of education like B.Ed., M.Ed., M.A(Education) which develops personal, academic and professional competencies.

However, some researchers questioned the disciplinary status of education and there are three schools of thought on the subject. The first suggests that since education borrows from and combines with other, more traditional, disciplines and often focuses on practice, it should not be called a discipline but a field of study or a second –level discipline. Using the same rationale (that many areas within education bring together a traditional discipline within an educational frame), the second school of thought calls education

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an inter-discipline. In addition, education has its own set of problems, questions, knowledge bases and approaches to inquiry; a third school of thought pushes for accepting education as a discipline.

At this point, it would be well worth examining education as a discipline. Not only does education have its own set of problems, questions and knowledge bases, and approaches to enquiry but also that which is borrowed from other disciplines often becomes transformed within the study of education.

#### 4.1 Characteristics of education as discipline

Education is a distinct and unique academic discipline having following features;

1. *It has a traceable history:* By tracing evolutionary history of education it becomes clear that it is as old as human race. Since their evolution they are inspired by their necessities and curiosity to explore their surroundings and as a consequence they accumulated vast amount of knowledge about the various environmental processes. In order to transfer this accumulated knowledge to their progenies, various methods and techniques are devised to educate other members of their community.
2. *Distinctive mode of thinking or different cognitive framework:* It takes inputs from many other disciplines but its cognitive framework is governed by a specific context which is strictly educational. For example, while deciding aims for educational process education takes implications from many philosophies but what should be the aim of education at a particular time is strictly decided by different thinking process of education like critical analysis, reasoning, explanation, description, and decision-making.
3. *Link with Basic Human Activities and Aspirations:* Production, preservation and transmission of culture, tradition and skills to the future generations is a basic human nature and education provides systematic set up to blossom these human activities by developing efficient teachers who can shape the destiny of nation.
4. *Theory and practice are closely interrelated:* In education, both theory and practice are in close relation to each other. Neither education is a pure theoretical discipline nor having a purely practical approach. However, due to close link with teaching and other practice oriented activities it is mainly considered a practical discipline.  
*Science as well as art:* Education may be regarded both as a science as well as an art since it consists of theoretical as well as practical knowledge and skills derived through various artistic and scientific methods and aims at achieving desired objectives by applying them in human behavior and practice.
5. *Illimitable scope:* As education is not limited to schooling which has formal set up. It also deals with studying education of special groups and for special issues like teacher education, woman education, adult education, environmental education and population education. Simultaneously scientific and technological advances are also the matters of concern for this field of study.

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6. *Catering needs of diverse groups:* Education helps in preparing educators, researchers and other professionals who develops the policies, curriculum, teaching learning material and design different methods to cater the needs of diverse learners like children, adults, women, special children etc. For e.g. to cater the needs of adults there is a provision of adult education.
  7. *Study of studies or Learning about learning:* By studying nature and objectives of different subject's educationists develop content, knowledge transaction methods and teaching-learning materials for different levels and kinds of learners. In this way, learning education taught us how to learn or make others learn different subjects.
  8. *Discipline of great social value:* A study of education helps in preparing teachers with right skills and attitude who can educate the children and develop leadership spirit and motivate them to bring the desirable change in the society thus, inspiring them to play their roles and responsibilities actively.
  9. *Balance between individual and social needs:* A study of education is very helpful to maintain balance between individual and social needs. For e.g. at each and every step of educational process while planning different policies, curriculum, teaching learning material and other co-curricular activities, the focus is on all round development of individual who will ultimately serve the society to his best.

Above discussion exposes some of the unique features of this discipline. Probably, this is the reason that people who come in education from different disciplinary backgrounds, finally leave their original fields and choose a career in education.

## **5. Interdisciplinary nature of education**

The concept of interdisciplinary may be defined as correlation between various disciplines, the association of which helps in furtherance and advancement of new knowledge. For example, applying the knowledge of mathematics in taking observations and recording science experiments. Even the Kothari commission laid emphasis on interdisciplinary approach with departments having close relationship. Thus education may be offered a new combination with subjects such as education and philosophy, education and sociology, education and psychology and many more.

1. *Education and philosophy:* Philosophy is the reflective or thinking process and education deals with the implementation of things already philosophized.
2. *Education and sociology:* Sociology is the study of nature of social relationships and main aim of education is to develop social qualities, social feelings and social efficiency and to prepare the individuals for democratic living so that they may work for the welfare of society.
3. *Education and psychology:* Education and psychology are closely interrelated as education is the modification of behavior in a desirable direction and psychology is the study of behavior.

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4. *Education and economics:* Economics study the economic issues related to education including demand for the education on the financing and provision of education.
  5. *Education and anthropology:* The focus of anthropology of education is cultural transmission. Educational system in society attempts to promote stability and ensure its survival by passing on insight, ideals, skills, goals to the next generation.
  6. *Education and history:* To understand schools, educational policies, reforms we must view these in historical perspectives that how history has led to development of schools as we know them today.

## 6. Education as an instrument of social change

Social changes are not caused by only one factor but numerous factors such as geographical, biological, demographic, education etc. are responsible for it. Among this education is the most powerful instrument of social change. The functions of education in the sphere of social change are outlined as under;

- a) Education helps in changing attitude of people so that they can fight against, superstitions traditional beliefs and prejudices in modern society.
- b) Education brings awareness among masses and creates a desire for change. For e.g. various campaigns against drug abuse, child labor, female feticides justify the desire for social change.
- c) It is the function of education to assist people to welcome and adopt social change by convincing them of its utility and desirability.
- d) Education helps in overpowering certain barriers which resists social change. For e.g. orthodox thinking.
- e) Education helps in producing effective leaders by developing certain leadership qualities like honesty, commitment, innovations, decision making capabilities etc. For e.g. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda who plays a vital role in abolishing 'Sati Pratha'.
- f) Education brings advancements in sphere of knowledge. For e.g. emergence of new technologies have created the global village.
- g) Education helps in developing democratic values such as liberty, equality, justice, tolerance, feeling of brotherhood.

From the above discussion, it is clear that education always play an important part in propagating social change.

## 7. Influence of education on family

Family is considered as first school of child. Family life influences the behavior and aims of life of an individual. Following points highlights the educational influences on family;

- a) It improves home management by developing certain skills such as domestic hygiene, household maintenance, preparation of food, its storage and nutritional skills to maintain good health.
- b) It helps in producing educated elites who can play their role effectively in the process of development and societal transformation.

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- c) Education brings awareness regarding family planning so as to control the problem of population explosion.
  - d) It helps the child to become better human being by inculcating higher values like truth, beauty, goodness, fellow feeling etc.
  - e) It creates wider and positive attitude in an individual and enables them to welcome and accept social change.
  - f) It helps in increasing productivity of family members. With the help of education each and every member of the family can utilize his maximum potential.
  - g) It helps in providing employment. For e.g. if all the members of the family earn then they become economically efficient.

## 8. Influence of education on society

Education plays a very important role in molding the character of an individual who is the part of society. And ultimately it affects the society. We can make sense of its effective role from the following points.

- a) Education acts as a means for the Preservation and transmission of our social, moral and cultural values through curriculum
- b) Education helps in awakening of social feelings by inculcating different values such as unity, love etc. and enables them to contribute to the society.
- c) Education helps in developing civic responsibilities, leadership qualities and makes the people aware about their rights and duties.
- d) Through education everyone learns how to earn money and as per their qualification he gets job or labor and govt. take help in the form of tax and thus it aids to economic development of country.
- e) Education makes all people aware about customs, traditions, societal norms so that they can live peacefully without any chaos and confusion.
- f) Education helps the people in creating the desire for social change, providing resistance in overcoming social change
- g) Education socializes a child by developing different values and creates awareness about their role and responsibility towards society as an ideal citizen.

## 9. Socio-cultural influences on aims of educations

Social and cultural conditions prevailing in the country play a significant role in defining trends of future development of people, society and the environment. They are the means with the help of which people can better understand each other as well as the world in which they live. Moreover, aims of education and socio cultural context are intimately and integrally connected. The meaning and aims of education are determined by the cultural background, cultural ideas, values and patterns of society. The societal norms and cultural pattern decides the educational pattern. For



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example, if a society has materialistic patterns of culture, then its educational pattern will be shaped for the attainment of material values which promotes pleasure of senses and material comforts. If the cultural pattern of society is spiritual, then its educational system will emphasize on the achievement of moral and eternal values of life.

## 10. Summary

Due to technological advancements there is a change in the social and cultural conditions which has a great influence on system of education. A number of policies have been framed by government to provide equal access to education and to enrich and transact the curriculum in an innovative way. Therefore, the discipline of education is introduced as a compulsory subject used for educating teacher educators which has some unique characteristics like an identifiable history, different cognitive framework, unlimited scope of study, catering needs if diverse learners, great social value, maintains balance b/w individualistic and societal needs, linked with basic human activities and aspirations and many more. Moreover, education may be offered as a new combination with subjects like philosophy, sociology, psychology, economics, history, anthropology etc. which highlights its interdisciplinary nature. For e.g. Philosophy is the reflective or thinking process and education deals with the implementation of things already philosophized. Sociology is the study of nature of social relationships and main aim of education is to develop social qualities, social feelings and social efficiency and to prepare the individuals for democratic living so that they may work for the welfare of society. Education and psychology are closely interrelated as education is the modification of behavior in a desirable direction and psychology is the study of behavior. Economics study the economic issues related to education including demand for the education on the financing and provision of education. The focus of anthropology of education is cultural transmission. Educational system in society attempts to promote stability and ensure its survival by passing on insight, ideals, skills, goals to the next generation. To understand schools, educational policies, reforms we must view these in historical perspectives that how history has led to development of schools as we know them today. Apart from this, we cannot ignore the role of education in bringing social change by performing various functions like change in attitudes, creating desire for change, overcoming resistance to change, providing effective leaders etc. stabilizing democratic values etc. It also has a great influence on family and society and helps in producing productive citizens which leads the nation towards progress. Also, social and cultural aspects play a significant role in defining trends of further development of people society and environment.

### Quadrant-III Learn More/ Web Resources/ Supplementary Materials

Books, Articles, Research papers, Journals, Case studies etc.

Basics in education, National Council of Educational Research and Training, ISBN 97893-5007-283-7.

Emanuel oliveira medeiros, Education as interdisciplinary knowledge: European scientific journal, august 2015, special/ edition ISSN: 1857.

G.F. Kneller (1971). (Ed.) Foundations of Education, London: John Wiley & Sons.

G.S.D. Tyagi & P.D. Pathak (2009). Shiksha ke Samanya Sidhanta. Agra: Aggarwal Publications.

N.R.S. Saxena & S. Chaturvedi (2005). Education in emerging Indian society. Meerut: Surya Publications.

R.S. Peters (1966), The philosophy of education, In J.W. Tibble (Ed.), The study of education.

U.C. Vashishtha (2011), The Discipline of Education- Some Unique Features, DEI FOERA, Fourth Annual Issue, January 2011, Agra: Dayalbagh Educational Institute.

W. Taylor (1966). The sociology of education, In J.W. Tibble (Ed.), The study of education.

Links to websites giving additional readings, Wikipedia, blogs, open source content etc.

Bedlearner.in/relationship-education

Dr. Purabi Chakravarty, Interdisciplinary approach in the field of education: retrieved on oct.19,2018 from [www.indianmba.com/facultycolumn/FC31/fc31.html](http://www.indianmba.com/facultycolumn/FC31/fc31.html).

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Louis d'Hainaut, Interdisciplinary in general education retrieved on Oct. 19,2018 from [www.unesco.org/education/pdf/31\\_14.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/education/pdf/31_14.pdf).

Social change retrieved on oct.19,2018 from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/social\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/social_change).

The social context of education, retrieved on Oct. 21, 2018 from: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs97/97981.pdf>

**Quadrant-IV****Self-Assessment**

**Description:** In self-assessment Question No. 1 to 05 learner has to identify about true/false statements and Question No. 6 to 10 consist of multiple choice questions in which learners are required to select the correct one out of the four alternatives

1. The word education is derived from the Greek word 'educare' which means 'to bring up' or 'to nourish'. ( )
2. There are various programs and levels of academic study of education like B.Ed., M.Ed., M.A(Education) which develops personal, academic and professional competencies. ( )
3. Education is purely a theoretical discipline. ( )
4. Education and Psychology are closely interrelated as education is the modification of behavior in a desirable direction and psychology is the study of soul. ( )
5. Education plays a significant role in bringing social change by providing assistance in creating desire for social change. ( )
6. Social change is a change in.....
  - i. Social Relationships
  - ii. Social Achievements
  - iii. Social Values
  - iv. Civilization
7. Which of the following are agencies of social change?
  - i. Family
  - ii. School
  - iii. National Army
  - iv. Both (i) and (ii)
8. The statement: 'Education is the dynamic side of philosophy' means
  - i. No education can proceed without having an ideological basis.
  - ii. The ultimate aim of education is to teach philosophical wisdom.
  - iii. Education keeps philosophy moving.
  - iv. Theoretical tenets are translated into practice by education.

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9. The meaning and aims of education are determined by;
- i. Cultural background
  - ii. Cultural ideas
  - iii. Values and patterns of society
  - iv. All the above
10. The meaning of term cultural lag is....
- i. Culture takes time to catch up with technological innovations.
  - ii. When changes in material culture occur at faster rate than non-material culture.
  - iii. Process by which different cultures approach each other.
  - iv. Both (i) and (ii)

**Answer** 1. False, 2. True, 3. False, 4. False, 5. True

**Answer** 6 (i), 7 (iv), 8 (iii), 9 (iv), 10 (iv)