

Open Educational Resources

Topic- Nature of Sociology

Sociology is the study of human interaction and inter-relationship conditions and consequences. It deals with the mixing up of the people in different sections of the society, which generally differ in different social set-up. It also studies inter-relationships in the different sections of the society i.e. religion, castes, SES and sex etc. It differs from society to society even in the same nations and regions. Ultimately it falls down its consequences of this type of behaviour. All these aspects of the society is also deals with the media of education at different levels, different sexes, different sections of the society and different setups. In these circumstances it is to modify the behaviour in different sections of the people to be evaluated in the discipline of educational sociology. As it has almost all the objectives consequences, deliberations and areas of operation which overlap with one and the others. Even the tools of sociology and education can mostly be used in both these discipline. This relationship is strengthened where sociological basis of education are explored in depth.

Relation between Education and Sociology

Sociology helps in shaping up education and acts as a pivotal force in the framework of education. The superstructure of education depends on social forces, needs and demands. The aspirations and expectations of a changing society are reflected through the education system of a country. Hence we can hardly think of education in isolation today.

From sociological point of view, education is regarded as process with two aspects; the psychological and sociological. The sociological aspects is given more importance by the sociologists who believe that true education comes through the stimulation of the child's power by the demands of the social situation in which he finds himself. One of the very important sociological factor is culture.

If education is considered an individual matter then psychology would be its most useful ally; but the things have changed. The individual is no longer trusted to educate himself. Society has taken over this function for him and in order to assure that he is educated for society rather than for self, group education, mass education and school is provided to him. Society has adopted universal compulsory education in order to protect itself.

Education and sociology both are inter-related and inter-dependent. Education without sociology become devoid of its significance. Education cannot be thought of without thinking of sociology. With the help of education the society becomes better and a good society modifies education as per its needs. Education helps in eradicating the ills of the society

and replacing them with good ones. By establishing better traditions, it makes the society a better place to live in.

Sociology and Meaning of Education

Brown has observed, "According to educational sociology, education is the consciously controlled process whereby changes in behaviour are produced in the person and through the person within the group." The educational sociologists also believed that education is a social process which socializes the child and causes certain changes in his behaviour. In this way, even in defining education, the sociologists have stressed its social aspects.

Sociology and Aims of Education

According to the educational sociologists the aim of education is to evolve those social qualities in the child which will enable him to understand his responsibility towards the society and to become an ideal citizen of his country. Although the aims in education has its impact on objectives and ends in education. The aims in education, therefore, according to him in an age of democracy will be those that prepare an individual for democratic living, education should enable him to live as a member of his society. Education should bring a change not only in amount of knowledge gained but in abilities to think, to do, and to acquire habits, skills, interests and attitudes. An educated person should be socially acceptable, technically efficient, personally well-adjusted and socially responsible. The educational sociologists lay great stress on social aim in education.

Sociology and Curriculum

Educational sociologists have provided a number of valuable suggestions about reorganizing the curriculum of education. According to them the function of sociology in regard to curriculum is two fold : first that it should be selected with a view to accomplishing the social purpose of education. and secondly, that it should be "so organised and related to method and classroom procedures that it may be an effective instrument of social control". According to the educational sociologists curriculum should be based mainly on social ideals and values, and the curriculum should provide for the introduction of social subjects and collective activities. As the needs of the society are dynamic the curriculum should also be dynamic and progressive. It should therefore be flexible so that it can be made to accommodate all social changes and necessities. Curriculum should reflect the culture, customs and environment of the community. The curriculum should consist of knowledge and skills that the child needs not only for his childhood days, but also for future life as an adult. Hence, the curriculum should include the subjects of Health and Physical Education, Social Studies, Language, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Music, Arts and a couple of vocational subjects at the secondary level.

Sociology and Methods of Teaching

The sociological tendency laid stress on the inclusion of social elements in the methods of

teaching so that education can evolve essential social qualities in children. Moore and Cole point out "It is through group relationship (which are encouraged in socialized methods) that an individual becomes aware of what it means to work with a purpose - Purpose lies within the individual, but its source, the stimulation for its growth, comes largely from without; and in order that these sources are meaningful. the individual must be identified with the group - he must belong." The effectiveness of learning for social competency depends on the suitability of motives and procedures. Following are the chief characteristics of the methods of teaching :

- (i) The methods of teaching should enable the pupil to acquire those skills and knowledge in the classroom that will be helpful to him in his adjustment to social life.
- (ii) The teaching technique must seek to utilize the social focus operative in social life in order to develop capacity for social adjustment.
- (iii) The teaching methods should develop problem-solving and constructive thinking.
- (iv) Co-operative group patterns, of learning which lay emphasis on group interaction, co-operative and democratic planning are always preferable to methods in which the individual learns by himself.

Educational sociology gives suggestions for changes in teaching methods from the view point of social dynamics.

Sociology and Discipline

Dewey has laid great stress upon social discipline in contrast to the sense of individual discipline. This sense of social discipline is born out of social activities and experiences in school and active participation of children. In such discipline, a child controls himself and exercises self discipline without doing any harm to others or to the society in general.

Sociology and School

According to sociological thinking, a school is society in miniature. In modern times, a school is like a living organism which brings into being various useful social activities and experiences which promote the development of social qualities in the individual. In other words, they become social beings in the true sense of the term.

It is evident from the foregoing that sociology has had widespread influence upon meaning, aims, curriculum and the methods of teaching etc.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the meaning and definitions of Sociology.
2. "Education and Society continuously affect each other." Discuss.
3. Explain in detail the relationship between Education and Sociology.

SUGGESTED BOOKS AND WEB SOURCES

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| 1. | Philosophical and Sociological Education. | : | T.S. Sodhi and Bases of Harinder Kaur Sodhi |
| 2. | Theory and Principles Education | : | J.C. Aggarwal |
| 3. | The Philosophical and Sociological Foundations of Education | : | Bhatia and Bhatia |
| 4. | Philosophy and Sociology of Education | : | R.N. Sharma |

Web Sources

- (a) en.wikipedia.org
- (b) books.google.co.in
- (c) www.ceeindia.org.
- (d) <https://www.pupdepartments.ac.in/de/>