

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN MODERN SOCIETY

Qo'chqorov Nodirbek To'xtaboy o'g'li

Scientific advisor: Gaziyeva Saida

Chirchik State Pedagogical University Tourism faculty

Foreign language and literature English student of 21/1-group

Bachelor student of Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Gmail: nq319988@gmail.com

Phone: +998886001109

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Annotation: In the modern world, education is the foundation of social, economic, and personal growth. Education is essential for giving people the values, information, and abilities they need to navigate life and make significant contributions to society as societies grow more technologically advanced and complex. This essay examines the value of education in contemporary society, emphasizing how it affects social justice, economic development, technological adaptation, and civic engagement. This study emphasizes the critical role that education plays in forming a sustainable and inclusive future by looking at theoretical frameworks, international case studies, and empirical data.

Keywords: Education, Modern Society, Economic Development, Social Equity, Civic Engagement, Lifelong Learning, Technological Change.

INTRODUCTION

Education has changed from being an elite privilege to a basic human right in contemporary society. Numerous international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, especially Goal 4: Quality Education, acknowledge its significance. The need for educated and flexible citizens has never been greater as societies shift from industrial to knowledge-based economies. Education develops critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and social responsibility in addition to academic knowledge. It is essential for reaching both national development objectives and individual potential.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Many studies have been conducted on the role that education plays in the development of society. John Dewey highlighted the importance of education in a democracy, contending that informed citizens' active participation is essential to a democratic society. Paulo Freire emphasized the value of critical consciousness and saw education as a means of achieving liberation. Amartya Sen contended that education improves people's capacity to live the lives they value and connected it to personal liberties and capacities.

This study employs a mixed-methods approach:

1. **Theoretical Analysis:** Utilizing Human Capital Theory, Capability Approach, and Social Reproduction Theory to understand the broader implications of education.
2. **Empirical Data Review:** Analyzing statistical data from organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, and the World Bank.
3. **Case Studies:** Examining the education systems of countries like Finland, South Korea, and Canada.
4. **Survey Research:** A questionnaire was conducted among 75 university students and 20 educators to gather perspectives on the role of education in personal and societal development.

DISCUSSION AND RESULT

1. Economic Growth and Workforce Development

One of the main forces behind economic expansion is education. Countries that invest in education typically have higher levels of income and productivity, according to the OECD. According to the Human Capital Theory, education improves workers' technical and cognitive abilities, which raises their productivity and efficiency. For example, South Korea's focus on universal education and skill development played a major role in the country's transition from a low-income to a high-tech economy. According to a 2022 World Bank report, a person's income can rise by up to 10% worldwide for every extra year of education. Furthermore, education systems need to prepare students for jobs that do not yet exist in an economy that is digitizing quickly. This involves encouraging digital literacy and incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. Lifelong education

2. Social Equity and Inclusion

In order to reduce inequality and advance social justice, education is essential. It enables people from underprivileged backgrounds to raise their socioeconomic standing. Nonetheless, there are still differences in access to high-quality education depending on geography, gender, income, and ethnicity. In many areas, girls are disproportionately affected by the over 260 million children who are still not in school, according to UNESCO. Free primary education and targeted scholarships are two examples of inclusive education policies that can aid in closing these gaps. A model where all children, regardless of their background, receive the same high-quality education is Finland's education system, which is well-known for its equity and excellence. These kinds of systems lessen poverty between generations and foster social cohesion.

3. Technological Adaptation and Innovation

Every element of life is changing in the twenty-first century due to technological advancements. To stay up with advancements in information technology, robotics, and artificial intelligence, education must change. Digital tools are being used more and more by colleges and universities to improve learning outcomes. Access to online resources, blended learning, and coding in the classroom are now essentials rather than extras.

Furthermore, it is essential to use education to promote creativity and innovation. According to the World Economic Forum, jobs of the future will demand emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and complex problem-solving skills. Therefore, educational systems need to move away from memorization and toward a more comprehensive strategy that develops these abilities.

4. Civic Engagement and Democratic Participation

Democracies cannot function without education. It enables people to make educated decisions, comprehend their rights and obligations, and take part in civic life. Voting, volunteering, and holding governments responsible are all more common among educated citizens. All levels of education should incorporate civic education, which covers topics like human rights, political systems, and global citizenship. Higher educated nations typically report higher levels of civic engagement and trust in public institutions, per a Pew Research Center survey.

5. Survey Findings

According to the survey used for this study, 88% of college students think that education is essential for both individual and societal development, and 95% of them think that it is essential for career success. Teachers emphasized how education shapes moral principles and social responsibility. Most were in favor of changes that would make education more accessible, useful, and in line with new technology.

CONCLUSION

The foundation of contemporary society is education. It promotes social justice, economic growth, technological advancement, and the fortification of democratic institutions. Only an informed and educated populace will be able to tackle the problems of the twenty-first century, such as inequality, climate change, and digital transformation. To create a resilient and just society, governments and stakeholders must fund inclusive, excellent, and forward-thinking educational systems.

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