

EDUCATION AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR MODERNIZATION

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ABSTRACT

In this paper the researcher has tried to explain have discussed Education as an instrument for Modernization. Precisely Modernization, to be precise, refers to the deeper change in man's way of thinking and feeling, a change in his whole attitude to life's problems, the society and the universe. It is not a process of imitation but a process of identification with the advanced countries in the matter of material affluence and physical abundance. Education and modernization are closely linked and as it is well fact that knows Education is the main instrument of change in all fields of life. In this paper the researcher has tried to highlight the role Education in enhancing modernization.

Keywords: Education, Modernization.

Introduction

The process of change in social life is a universal reality. No human society can remain stagnant forever. Social change is inevitable. The rates of change ,however ,vary not only from society but also from time to time .In developing countries ,in spite of traditional obstructions and socio-cultural hindrances, societies are changing .This change in the mode of life ,patterns of marital and social relationship ,systems and economic distributions and ways of behavior have given birth to a new process termed as modernization. Modernization signifies the economics and political aspirations of the third world countries. It signifies a prescribed course of chance for a traditional as well as a modernizing society.

Modernization is to be regarded as a new term for an old process-The process of social change whereby less developed societies acquire characteristics common to more developed societies (Learner ,1968)

Karl Marx was probably the first to note this process as activated by inter-social communication, when in preface to Das Kapital he observed: 'The country that is more developed industrially only shows, to the less developed the image of its own future.'

What is Modernization?

"Modernization means the development of a modern outlook in everyday life." It does not mean the abandonment of religion and more acceptances of modern equipment's, tools and gadgets. Technological achievements and scientific advancement in developing countries is limited. The development of rational outlook and scientific approach is also limited. Still many aspects of socio- cultural life are still dominated by faith-oriented ideologies and traditions. It cannot be denied that the traditional approach is becoming significant and the traditional practices are being replaced by the modern ones. According to Deutch, "Modernization is a process in which major clusters of old social, economic and psychological commitments are eroded and broken and people become available for new pattern of socialization and behavior,"

Definitions of Modernizations

Jha(1978) described modernization as, "Modernization is total reorientation of man's belief, outlook and attitudes."

David (2003) Converses , " Modernization implies two things one transformation in material setting involving systems (political, economic and educational) and institutions, secondly it may also imply change to value system or value consensus.

The salient features of the modernization are:-

- It is a process of structural transformation of social, economic and political structures.
- It signifies a conscious process, a process of purposive and planned change.
- It implies transformation in the direction of increasing economic rationality, technological rapidity and structural elasticity.
- It is not a process of imitation but a process of identification with the advanced countries in the matter of material affluence and physical abundance.
- Material prosperity is to be attained by the progressive programs for the utilization of science and technology.

- It involves either adoption or adaption of the modern scientific and technological characteristics in to the emerging patterns of modern nations.
Standards of performance and achievements are to be accomplished by slow but sure degrees.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Modernization

The advantages and disadvantages of Modernization are as follows:

1. **Culture:** On the one hand, modernization has encouraged the development of new forms of creative expression, such as film and television .These forms can be easily exported and viewed all over the world .However, a loss of culture may result from modernization .The spread of the Western Culture has caused young people in non-Western countries to abandon their traditional customs and values .Even languages has begin to disappear as urbanization encourages people to learn a country's dominant language.
 2. **Business :**New technology has revolutionized the speed and accuracy of production .furthermore ,increased global trade allows businesses to sell their products anywhere .But increased global production may hurt domestic business when international companies can offer products at cheaper prices .The production of goods in foreign countries ,where labor laws are more relaxed ,amounts to exploitation in some people's view.
 3. **Environment:** National resources such as wood, water and oil are often processed in modernized society, and skyscrapers and factories begin to transform the landscape. Environmental problems, such as climate change, are believed to be the result of industrial development and production .However in many poorer countries, the discovery of oil and the adoption of new technologies is welcomed for the financial opportunities it presents.
- **Communication and Travel:** New inventions such as phones, televisions and computers allow people to communicate instantly anywhere on the globe .Increased global travel allows people to visit foreign cultures for business or leisure .Contact with foreign cultures fosters international cooperation, but can also result in further loss of culture as people begin to adopt the foreign cultures and languages they are exposed to.
 - **Education as an Instrument for Modernization** The education commission of India under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari (1966) had reiterated in clear and unambiguous terms that education is the main instrument of change in all fields of life of nation- social, cultural, economic, technological and industrial. It has realized the importance of education as instrument for national development. For education to perform its new task of modernizing the Indian society, the commission has suggested the following educational strategies:

This can be done if education, if education,

- If education is related to productivity,
- If education strengthens social and national integration,
- If education consolidates democracy as a form of government and helps the country to adopt it as a way of life, hastens the process of modernization, and strives to build character by cultivating social, moral and spiritual values."

Modernization and Education

Education and modernization are closely linked. It is education that canserve as an efficient instrument for effective modernization for a nation to modernize itself, the spread of education in rapid strides is quite essential. The cream of intelligential is but the product education churning. Education is butanothername for human resource development. It produces the skilled personnel to occupy different positions in life who would contribute for the growth of national wealth through their creative abilities and productive efforts. The pace of education as such serves as an indication for the level of modernization a nation has attained. Education is the key that opens the doors of modernization in various fields of nation's life like economic, industrial, technological and social fields.

How Modernization affects Education

On the other side, Modernization process has its own implications for education. The impact of modernization on the educative process should be properly understood. Modernization demands that the teaching and testing technology should be modernized in order to achieve better quickly as possible. The development of science and technology has influenced teaching and testing procedures so much that they are considered as belonging to technology by themselves. Today the instructional technology makes use of

advanced auto-visual aids, tape-recorders, movies a broadcasting net-work, television and, “teacher - in - the sky satellites.” Especially worthy of mentioning are teaching machines and computer in the classroom. Unless and until we modernize the instruction techniques as done in the far advanced countries, our efforts for educating and modernizing the nation will not be far - fetching.

Conclusion

The conception of development as a process of modernization gained prominence in the period after World War II, but its popularity ebbed in the 1960s. As a corollary, the conclusion will be that modernization should affect teacher education too for it is the teachers that should adopt modernized technology in the classroom situations .This is a prerequisite for modernizing instructional technology. Education is but one determinant factor in the procession dimension of social change .It is a bare fact that formal education is one of the main and important agents of socialization. The diffusion of scientific and technological knowledge by modern educational institutions can help in the creation of skilled manpower to play the occupational roles demanded by the industrial economy .Other values like individualism and universalistic ethics etc. can also be included through education. Thus education can be an important means of modernization.

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