

INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

FORMAL, INFORMAL & NON-FORMAL

Education goes beyond what takes place within the four walls of the classroom. A child gets the education from his experiences outside the school as well as from those within on the basis of these factors. There are three main types of education, namely, Formal, Informal and Non-formal. Each of these types is discussed below.

FORMAL EDUCATION-

Formal education or formal learning usually takes place in the premises of the school, where a person may learn basic, academic, or trade skills. Small children often attend a nursery or kindergarten but often formal education begins in elementary school and continues with secondary school.

Post-secondary education (or higher education) is usually at a college or university which may grant an academic degree. It is associated with a specific or stage and is provided under a certain set of rules and regulations.

The formal education is given by specially qualified teachers they are supposed to be efficient in the art of instruction. It also observes strict discipline. The student and the teacher both are aware of the facts and engage themselves in the process of education.

EXAMPLE-

- Learning in a classroom
- School grading/certification, college, and university degrees
- Planned education of different subjects having a proper syllabus acquired by attending the institution.

CHARACTERISTIC

Formal education is structured hierarchically.

- It is planned and deliberate.
- Scheduled fees are paid regularly.
- It has a chronological grading system.
- It has a syllabus and subject-oriented. The syllabus has to be covered within a specific time period.
- The child is taught by the teachers

ADVANTAGE OF FORMAL EDUCATION

- An organised educational model and up to date course contents.
- Students acquire knowledge from trained and professional teachers.
- Structured and systematic learning process.

- Intermediate and final assessments are ensured to advance students to the next learning phase.
- Institutions are managerially and physically organised.
- Leads to a formally recognised certificate.
- Easy access to jobs.

DISADVANTAGE

- Sometimes, brilliant students are bored due to the long wait for the expiry of the academic session to promote to the next stage
- Chance of bad habits' adoption may be alarming due to the presence of both good and bad students in the classroom
- Wastage of time as some lazy students may fail to learn properly in spite of motivation by the professional trainers.
- Some unprofessional and non-standard education system may cause the wastage of time and money of the students which leads to the disappointment from formal education and argue them to go for non-formal education.
- Costly and rigid education as compare to other forms of learning

INFORMAL EDUCATION-

Informal education may be a parent teaching a child how to prepare a meal or ride a bicycle.

People can also get an informal education by reading many books from a library or educational websites. Informal education is when you are not studying in a school and do not use any particular learning method. In this type of education, conscious efforts are not involved. It is neither pre-planned nor deliberate. It may be learned at some marketplace, hotel or at home.

Unlike formal education, informal education is not imparted by an institution such as school or college. Informal education is not given according to any fixed timetable. There is no set curriculum required. Informal education consists of experiences and actually living in the family or community.

EXAMPLE-

- Teaching the child some basics such as numeric characters.
- Someone learning his/her mother tongue
- A spontaneous type of learning, “if a person standing in a bank learns about opening and maintaining the account at the bank from someone.”

CHARACTERISTICS-

- It is independent of boundary walls.
- It has no definite syllabus.

- It is not pre-planned and has no timetable.
- No fees are required as we get informal education through daily experience and by learning new things.
- It is a lifelong process in a natural way.
- The certificates/degrees are not involved and one has no stress for learning the new things.
- You can get from any source such as media, life experiences, friends, family etc.

ADVANTAGE-

- More naturally learning process as you can learn at anywhere and at any time from your daily experience.
- It involves activities like individual and personal research on a topic of interest for themselves by utilising books, libraries, social media, internet or getting assistance from informal trainers.
- Utilises a variety of techniques.
- No specific time span.
- Less costly and time-efficient learning process.
- No need to hire experts as most of the professionals may be willing to share their precious knowledge with students/public through social media and the internet.
- Learners can be picked up the requisite information from books, TV, radio or conversations with their friends/family members.

DISADVANTAGE-

- Information acquired from the internet, social media, TV, radio or conversations with friends/family members may lead to the disinformation.
- Utilised techniques may not be appropriate.
- No proper schedule/time span.
- Unpredictable results which simply the wastage of time.
- Lack of confidence in the learner.
- Absence of discipline, attitude and good habits.

NON-FORMAL-

Non-formal education includes adult basic education, adult literacy education or school equivalency preparation.

In non-formal education, someone (who is not in school) can learn literacy, other basic skills or job skills.

Home education, individualised instruction (such as programmed learning), distance learning and computer-assisted instruction are other possibilities.

Non-formal education is imparted consciously and deliberately and systematically implemented. It should be organised for a homogeneous group. Non-formal, education should be programmed to serve the needs of the identified group. This will necessitate flexibility in the design of the curriculum and the scheme of evaluation.

EXAMPLE-

- Boy Scouts and Girls Guides develop some sports program such as swimming comes under non-formal education.
- Fitness programs.
- Community-based adult education courses.
- Free courses for adult education developed by some organisation.

CHARACTERISTICS-

- The non-formal education is planned and takes place apart from the school system.
- The timetable and syllabus can be adjustable.
- Unlike theoretical formal education, it is practical and vocational education.
- Non-formal education has no age limit.
- Fees or certificates may or may not be necessary.
- It may be full time or part-time learning and one can earn and learn together.
- It involves learning of professional skills.

ADVANTAGE-

- Practiced and vocational training.
- Naturally growing minds that do not wait for the system to amend.
- Literacy with skill-fulness growth in which self-learning is appreciated.
- Flexibility in age, curriculum and time.
- Open-ended educational system in which both the public and private sector are involved in the process.
- No need to conduct regular exams.
- Diploma, certificates, and award are not essential to be awarded.

DISADVANTAGE-

- Attendance of participants is unsteady.
- Sometimes, it's just wastage of time as there is no need to conduct the exam on regular basis and no degree/diploma is awarded at the end of the training session.
- Basic reading and writing skills are crucial to learn.
- No professional and trained teachers.
- Students may not enjoy full confidence as the regular students enjoy.
- Some institutes provide fake certification through online courses just for the sake of earning.

Criteria of Analysis	Formal Education	Informal Education	Non-Formal Education
Definition	Formal education is a methodical and composed training model that organized and controlled by a given arrangement of laws and standards, exhibiting a somewhat inflexible educational programs as respects goals, content and procedure.	Casual or informal education is different from formal training and especially from non-formal training, despite the fact that in specific cases it is equipped for keeping up a cozy association with both. Informal instruction does not really incorporate the destinations and subjects for the most part included by the customary educational program.	Non-formal education qualities are discovered when the received methodology does not require learner participation, diminishing the contacts among instructor and learner and most exercises happen outside the school, for example, home reading and desk work.
Instances	Acquiring proper knowledge from educational institutions like school, college & university.	Students discussion, learning outside the classroom, use of DVD having educational lectures & TV shows.	Non-credit adult educational programs, sports programs planned by community association, online courses.

Course contents	Properly organize information based on facts.	Multidisciplinary field information.	Particular knowledge of specific domain.
Type of activities	Formal activities	Routine training Calming activities	Non-formal activities (outside the school, classroom and after getting jobs)
Outcome	Positive and projected	Positive or negative and non-projected	Positive and projected
Source of acquiring knowledge	Schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions	Internet, Social Media, electronic/print media, group discussion amongst friends/family members	Outside the educational institution
Way of acquiring knowledge	Direct	Individual, implicit	Direct

Advantages	Organized, structured and systemic learning process end with recognized certificate which leads to access a reasonable job.	Naturally learning process as you learn from daily experience, less costly and time proficient, no need to hire experts, learn from social media, electronic & print media, internet and other sources.	Practiced and vocational trainings, Literacy with skillfulness growth, flexibility in age, curriculum and time, no regular exams.
Disadvantages	Costly and rigid education, long academic session, adoption of bad habits during study hours, unprofessional trainers may cause the wastage of time and money as well.	Unreliable sources of information, no proper time schedule, inappropriate techniques, unpredictable results, absence of confidence and discipline in learner.	Non-regular turnout of learners, no regular exam so no degree/certificate is awarded at the end of a training session which is just undue consumption of precious time.