

STUDY MATERIALS

BA 1ST SEM MAJOR (FYUGP)

MAJOR EDU-1.1

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UNIT-1

MEANING, NATURE AND SCOPE OF EDUCATION

1. Introduction:

Education is a life-long continuous process of development. It starts from the womb to the tomb. In our every walk of life we face different situations and all those situations enhance our knowledge, understanding, experiences and perspectives which is considered as education. Thus, education means the process of bringing up, developing, and guiding the individual to realize their potential and contribute positively to society. Therefore, education is considered as a **lifelong, dynamic process** of all-round development. It includes every aspect of life of an individual for their physical, mental, social, cultural, moral, and spiritual development. It develops skills of a person in such a way so that an individual becomes empowered socio-culturally, politically, economically and take their own decision judiciously. It helps us in sustainable development.

Education may be defined from its derivative aspect. Further it may also be defined in Narrow Sense and Broad Sense.

2. Derivative Meaning of Education

The term *education* is derived from the Latin words:

- *Educare* → to nourish, to bring up.
- *Educere* → to lead out, to draw out.
- *Educatum* → the act of teaching or training.

Thus, education means the process of bringing up, developing, and guiding the individual to realize their potential and contribute positively to society.

3. Education in Narrow Sense: In narrow sense education means whatever we learn from formal educational institutions like school, college, universities or any other educational institutions observing different formalities. It gives degree, diploma, etc.

4. Education in Broad Sense: means it has no boundary. It has no fixed course curriculum, syllabus, educational institutions. The whole universe is a learning platform. Education is a life-long continuous process of development. It starts from the womb to the tomb. In our every walk

of life we face different situations and all those situations enhance our knowledge, understanding, experiences and perspectives which is considered as education. Thus, education means the process of bringing up, developing, and guiding the individual to realize their potential and contribute positively to society.

DEFINITIONS BY EMINENT INDIAN AND WESTERN PHILOSOPHERS AND EDUCATORS:

- **M. K. Gandhi**, father of the Nation defined education as: **“By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man – body, mind and spirit.”**
- According to Gandhi, education must be:
 - Rooted in real life and productive work.
 - Linked with the environment and community.
 - Focused on moral, spiritual, and practical development.
 - Aimed at self-reliance, character formation, and service to society.

Rabindranath Tagore on Education

- Tagore defined education as:

“Education means enabling the mind to find out that ultimate truth which emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us wealth not of things but of inner light, not of power but of love, not of trade but of truth, not of nation but of human fellowship.”

- According to Tagore, education must be:
 - A natural and joyful process, not mechanical.
 - In harmony with nature, music, art, and culture.
 - Focused on creativity, freedom of thought, and self-expression.
 - Aimed at universal humanism and spiritual unity.
- **Plato**: “Education is the creation of a sound mind in a sound body.”
- **Aristotle**: “Education is the creation of a sound mind in a sound body.”
- **Swami Vivekananda**: “Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.”
- **John Dewey**: “Education is the continuous reconstruction of experiences.”

2. Nature of Education

The essential characteristics of education are:

1. **A Lifelong Process:**
Education is not confined to schools or colleges; it continues from birth to death.
2. **Dynamic and Continuous:**
Education changes with the needs of society and adapts to new challenges.
3. **Bipolar Process:**
Education involves interaction between the teacher (educator) and the learner (educand).
4. **Tri-polar Process:**
Along with teacher and student, society also influences education.
5. **Development of the Whole Personality:**
It develops cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains of the learner.
6. **Both Formal and Informal:**
Education occurs in formal institutions (schools, universities) as well as through family, media, peer groups, and environment.
7. **Value-Oriented:**
Education transmits cultural heritage, values, and moral principles.
8. **Social Process:**
Education is deeply connected with socialization and prepares individuals to live harmoniously in society.

3. Scope of Education

The scope of education is very wide and includes the following aspects:

(a) Individual Development

- Development of physical, intellectual, emotional, social, moral, and spiritual capacities.
- Encouragement of creativity, self-discipline, and self-realization.

(b) Social Development

- Transmission of culture and social values.
- Promotion of social cohesion, tolerance, and democratic spirit.
- Preparing individuals for social responsibilities and citizenship.

(c) National Development

- Development of human resources.
- Advancement of science, technology, and economy.
- Nation-building through character formation and leadership.

(d) International Understanding

- Promotion of peace, brotherhood, and cooperation among nations.
- Education as a means to solve global issues like environment, poverty, and human rights.

(e) Vocational and Professional Aspect

- Preparation for careers and professions.
- Providing technical and skill-based training for self-reliance.

4. Conclusion

Education is a **comprehensive, continuous, and purposeful process** that aims at the all-round development of the individual. Its nature is both personal and social, formal and informal, value-based and skill-oriented. The scope of education extends from individual growth to global peace and progress. In short, education is the **most powerful instrument of social change, cultural preservation, and human development**.