

## **Topic -Meaning and Determinants of Aims of Education**

The word “aim” means a goal, purpose, or desired result that we want to achieve. Therefore, the aim of education refers to the goals or purposes that education tries to achieve in the life of an individual and in society.

In simple words, aims of education tell us what kind of person we want education to develop and what we expect education to accomplish.

Example: If the aim of education is development of moral character, schools should provide opportunities for students to learn honesty, kindness, discipline, cooperation and responsibility.

The aim of education is broad and multidimensional. Education does not have only one aim. It aims at the all-round development of an individual—physical, intellectual, emotional, social, moral and vocational. The major ideas behind the concept are:

### **1.Development of the individual-**

Education helps a person develop knowledge, intelligence, personality, creativity and skills.

Example: A student learns problem-solving and critical thinking through classroom activities.

### **2.Development of moral character-**

Education develops values such as honesty, discipline, responsibility and respect.

Example: A teacher encourages students to return a lost object instead of keeping it.

### **3.Social development-**

Education prepares individuals to live and work peacefully with others.

Example: Group projects teach students cooperation, sharing and teamwork.

### **4.Preparation for future life-**

Education prepares individuals to face real-life situations and responsibilities.

Example: Learning communication and decision-making skills helps students handle future personal and professional situations.

## 5.Vocational development-

Education provides knowledge and skills needed for employment and economic independence.

Example: Computer education, teacher training or vocational courses prepare students for particular careers.

## 6.Development of responsible citizens-

Education helps individuals understand their rights, duties and responsibilities towards society and the nation.

Example: Students learn about democracy, voting, fundamental rights and duties.

## 7.Development of a balanced personality-

Education should develop not only the mind but also the body, emotions, social qualities and values.

Example: A school provides academic learning along with sports, cultural activities and value education.

Determinants :

### 1.Philosophical Determinants of the Aims of Education-

Philosophical determinants refer to the influence of philosophy and philosophical beliefs on deciding the aims, objectives and direction of education. Philosophy tells us what is valuable in life, what kind of person should be developed, what knowledge is important, and what kind of society we should create. Therefore, the aims of education are largely determined by the philosophy of a society.

#### 1. Idealism

Idealism gives importance to the mind, spirit, moral values and character. According to idealism, education should develop the inner qualities of an individual and help a person realise truth, goodness and beauty.

Aim: Moral and spiritual development, character formation and self-realisation.

Example: A school teaches honesty, truthfulness, self-discipline and respect for others through stories, activities and the teacher's own example.

## 2. Naturalism-

Naturalism considers nature and the natural development of the child as very important. Education should allow children to develop according to their interests, abilities and natural tendencies.

Aim: Natural development, freedom and harmonious development of the child.

Example: Instead of forcing every child to learn in exactly the same way, the teacher gives children opportunities to explore nature, play and learn through their own experiences.

## 3. Pragmatism-

Pragmatism considers experience, activity and practical usefulness important. Education should prepare learners to solve real-life problems and adapt to changing circumstances.

Aim: Development of problem-solving ability, practical intelligence, adaptability and democratic qualities.

Example: Students learn about environmental pollution by conducting a local survey and finding practical ways to reduce waste.

## 4. Realism-

Realism emphasizes the real world, facts, scientific knowledge and observation. Education should help learners understand the world as it actually exists.

Aim: Development of scientific attitude, rational thinking and knowledge of the physical and social environment.

Example: Instead of only reading about plants, students observe plants, examine their parts and conduct simple experiments.

## 2. Sociological Determinants of the Aims of Education

Sociological determinants are the social factors and conditions that influence or determine the aims of education. Education is a social process, so its aims are closely connected with the needs, values, culture, structure and problems of society. In simple words, education prepares an individual not only for personal development but also for living successfully as a member of society.

### 1. Social Needs-

The aims of education are determined by the needs of society. Education should help individuals understand and solve social problems.

Example: If a society faces problems of discrimination and inequality, education should promote equality, social justice and tolerance.

## 2. Culture and Traditions-

Culture includes the customs, traditions, beliefs, language, art and values of a society. Education helps preserve and transmit important cultural values from one generation to another.

Example: Schools teach students about local history, literature, festivals, traditional art and language to preserve cultural heritage.

## 3. Social Values-

The values accepted by society influence the aims of education.

Example: A democratic society values freedom, equality, cooperation and tolerance. Therefore, education aims to develop these qualities among students.

## 4. Social Structure-

The structure of society influences what education should achieve. Education should help individuals understand their social roles and interact with different groups.

Example: In a diverse society like India, education promotes social harmony, unity and respect for different communities and cultures.

## 5. Social Change-

Society is constantly changing. Therefore, education must prepare individuals to adjust to new social conditions.

Example: Changes in family patterns, employment and technology require education to develop adaptability, communication skills and critical thinking.

## 6. Social Problems-

Social problems also influence educational aims. Education can help individuals understand and address these problems.

Example: To address problems such as gender discrimination, child labour and environmental degradation, schools can provide gender equality education, environmental education and social awareness programmes.

### 7. Socialisation-

One of the important functions of education is to socialise individuals. It teaches learners how to behave according to socially accepted values, norms and responsibilities.

Example: Students learn discipline, cooperation, respect for others and responsibility through classroom rules and group activities.

### 3. Economic Determinants of the Aims of Education

Economic determinants are the economic conditions, needs and requirements of a country or society that influence the aims of education. Education is closely related to the economy because it develops the knowledge, skills and abilities needed for employment, productivity and economic development.

The economic condition of a society determines what kind of knowledge and skills education should provide to individuals.

#### 1. Employment and Vocational Skills-

One major aim of education is to prepare individuals for employment and self-employment. Education should provide skills that are useful in the job market.

Example: Schools and colleges provide computer skills, communication skills, technical education and vocational training to improve students' employment opportunities.

#### 2. Economic Development-

Education contributes to the economic development of a country by producing skilled, knowledgeable and productive citizens.

Example: Training engineers, teachers, doctors, scientists and skilled technicians helps a country increase its productivity and development.

#### 3. Skill Development-

Modern economies require people with different types of practical and technical skills. Therefore, education aims to develop vocational, technical and professional skills.

Example: A student may learn coding, electrical work, tailoring, agriculture, accounting or other practical skills according to their interests and employment opportunities.

#### 4. Productivity-

Education increases the efficiency and productivity of workers by improving their knowledge and skills.

Example: An agricultural training programme can teach farmers modern farming techniques, helping them produce more crops efficiently.

#### 5. Self-Dependence-

Education aims to make individuals economically independent so that they can earn a livelihood and meet their needs.

Example: Entrepreneurship education can encourage students to start small businesses instead of depending entirely on salaried employment.

#### 6. Reduction of Unemployment-

Education can help reduce unemployment by providing job-oriented and market-relevant skills.

Example: Vocational courses in areas such as computer applications, healthcare, tourism or automobile technology can prepare students for specific occupations.

Assessment Questions:

1.What is the meaning of Education with example?

2.How Philosophical aim determine aim of Education?