

# ARE SCHOOLS THE ONLY MEANS OF DISSEMINATING EDUCATION?

## OUTLINE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### THESIS STATEMENT

Schools are not the only means of disseminating education these days. Technological advancements have eased the flow of information. The modes of obtaining knowledge have also evolved and rely on different actors ~~like~~ which play a significant role in educating minds.

### 2. EDUCATION AND MEANS TO DISSEMINATE IT

#### 3. THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS OF DISSEMINATING EDUCATION (THESIS)

- Mothers play an important role in families as teachers. (HITLER)
- Peers and social groups educate in natural environment.
- Schools, the formal mode of education.
- Technology is the teacher of modern world.
- Visiting and experiencing places, educate ~~for~~ in a different way.

#### 4. SCHOOLS ARE THE FORMAL AND EFFECTIVE TOOLS OF EDUCATION (ANTI-THESIS)

- Families opt for schools for detailed and advanced education.
- Schools provide the best environment to socialize and learn.
- Schools are the all encompassing disseminators of education.
- Even the proper use of technology is taught at schools.
- Schools ensure the incorporation of all different means.

#### 5. SCHOOLS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT NOT THE ONLY MEANS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION (SYNTHESIS)

- The base on which schools build, are laid by the family.
- The environment of schools is good but not realistic.

c. The schools produce the work force, not the humans

d. The opportunities provided by Technology are way more

e. Schools become irrelevant after certain age.

## 6. CONCLUSION

There was a man, who used to ponder and contemplate about universe and its creator. He used to go into cave for attaining a peaceful environment and think about life, its purpose, its creator and the ways to connect to the creator. One day bright light shone in the cave and there came an angel. The angel asked the man to read. The man told him that he could not read. The angel hugged him tightly so as to transfer the knowledge from chest to chest and asked him to read again. The angel recited some verse and asked the man to repeat after him. The man started repeating and became enabled to read. This angel was no other than the respectable Gabriel (A.S) and the man was the final Prophet of God on earth, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). This was the start of the biggest religion of world and it started and was born in a cave away from social life. This religion would be revealed to Prophet Adam (A.S) and then passed onto the next generations through formal channels of education, what we call today "the schools". But the nature choose the other way. Similarly, these days, schools are not the only means of disseminating education. Technological advancements have

ceased the flow of information. The modes of obtaining knowledge have also evolved and rely on different actors, like family, social groups, schools and Technology et cetera which play a significant role in educating minds. There are people who hold that schools are the only means of disseminating education and provide logical reasons to support their claims, yet in this modern evolving advanced world, schools are not the only means of disseminating education.

In 20<sup>th</sup> century, the term "Education" had quite different meaning than today. This meaning evolved from the Renaissance period, in which the formal concept of education started. The late 20<sup>th</sup> century saw industrial revolution and gave importance to education as the means of earning the sustenance. But with the introduction internet and globalization, Education gained a vast definition, which not only includes theories, facts and figures but also incorporates technical and vocational skills. And these skills are not limited to the sciences only, the artistic skills are also included. Even the sphere of sciences expanded and we saw different fields of sciences like experimental, social, and economic sciences. Just like education, the ways to disseminate education also evolved. The most common mean is school. The school itself evolved from the Plato's Academy to modern day online Zoom sessions, but the schools are not and never have been the only means of disseminating

education.

We all know that humans are social animals, and they learn and collect their knowledge from other human beings. The first and foremost social group to which a baby is introduced is family. The family plays an important role in inculcating the core values and basic concepts about the world. Due to increased attachment of a baby with a mother, the views of mother are passed onto baby. The lap of a mother is the first institution where the learning process starts. Later in life, the children seek the validation of their actions from their parents and continue them only if they are acknowledged. The famous quote of Hitler, "Give me good mothers, I'll give you a good nation" reinforces the idea that learning process starts from the cradle.

As child grows, so does the social circle. The initial family circle expands and incorporates relatives and friends in this circle. The child observe its peers and learns the habits that amaze him/her. He/She wants to adopt the same habits which are inline with the core values that are taught by his parents in the first stage. This stage is mostly observatory which tries to rationalize and explain the cause of certain behaviours. Sociologist explain this phenomenon in such a way that when a kid sees other

kid with a toy and finds him happy, he is socialized or educated to be more precise to derive happiness from material things. This kid would want a toy for himself, if he wants to become happy.

This age of socializing continues for some time then people start to do it subconsciously and even at latter stages they learn to control this behaviour. However, the values and norms learned through family and peer are aligned and moulded into skill set, to be used ~~at~~ at different stages of life in the school. The school not only validates and modifies the pre-learned behaviour but also introduces child to new set of knowledge. This set of knowledge is the combination of arts and sciences and lays the foundation of formal education. This is the process of learning how to learn and what to learn. The UNITED NATIONS has defined the age of 5-14, as the age of school going.

In the general cases the age of 12-14 is finalization of school period but the learning process continues. In the modern times there are two modes of further learning, one is formal and the other is informal. The formal is the college and university and college education and the informal is through internet. The education through print and electronic media is the speciality of this era. The internet not only brought the

new means of learning to the table but also introduced new skills ~~and~~ like graphic designing, animation and program coding et cetera. People learn these skills online and use them online to earn sustenance and to expand their knowledge base. There are currently more than ~~4.9~~ 4.9 Bn internet users worldwide, out of which 71% is youth.

(ITU: International Telecommunication Union, UN, 2021)

Although internet has globalized the world and removed all the barriers, yet there is a mode of education which is difficult to find in schools or on the internet. This mode of education is through experiencing the things. ~~The IT schools is said~~ There is a saying "Teach me and I'll forget, Show me, I'll remember". Human mind only stores the data that it is presented with and with the passage of time if the data is not refreshed, it fades away. However, the experiences of a person are stored in human minds as emotions and based on these emotions it is able to predict the possible outcomes or results. For example if a driver is told that safe driving speed is 60 km/ph. He may not understand its importance. But if he witnesses a car accident of a speeding car, his mind would be able to comprehend the negative effects of speeding and to reiterate the importance of safe driving speed.

Despite all these arguments and reasons, there are <sup>who argue</sup> people based on their experience and knowledge, that schools are the only means of education dissemination. The views that reinforce the idea are backed by the fact that families send their children to schools for education, which shows the importance of schools even in modern world. The concept of learning in schools is as old as history, where we find Plato teaching his students in the Academy through dialogue. The methods of teaching and learning have evolved over time but this has only increased the importance of schools. The schools remain to be the authentic and reliable source of information and knowledge. The fact that people want their wards to graduate from universities is the evidence that families prefer the formal mode of education.

The schools not only do the job of parents for them but also provide children with a good learning environment. The schools ensure a uniform environment for all its students regardless of their backgrounds. A mediocre or a rich family might be able to provide its child with a good environment to socialize in but for a poor family it is not possible. There is a increased chance that a child will socialize with wrong or negative people in poor neighbourhood. School is the only source of equality that ensures that every child gets the not only the equal environment for socializing but

also the good environment. This is ensured by the rules and regulations of schools which clearly define the dos and don'ts and ~~makes sure that such~~ are implemented in their true sense.

The schools not only provide the best social learning environment but also cover the all aspects of education. The modern day schools are all encompassing that teach manners, skills, knowledge, arts, music, cycling, swimming and many other similar things. There are competitions and to develop the interest of students and prizes are distributed to encourage the participation. In some schools it is made compulsory to take up some extra-curricular activity in order to obtain the school completion certificates. The recent trend of schools with boarding facilities is on rise. These schools have football fields, hockey fields, basketball courts, swimming pools and movie nights to ensure that all aspects of education are covered.

As the modern schools are encompassing and teach various things, one among these is the correct use of technology. Technology, like many other things, has its positive and negative uses. A child who is growing up might get exposed to its negative effects and get stuck in negative activities. A school ensures that child uses the technology in a right manner.



The modern day schools are equipped by computer libraries and computer teachers, who introduce the children to the positive use of technology and its benefits. In fact, it is schools that introduced the idea of e-learning and brought forward the positive use of technology. In fact, according to a research, the use of technology improved the performance of students, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

(Sep, 2021, BMC Medical Education)

Another upside of schools is that they adopt all available tried and tested means of education that are effective and efficient. The schools have evolved with the time and acknowledge the importance of out-of-class education. That is why many schools plan and organize field trips, recreational trips and exploration trips to ensure that their students experience and learn all that is out there that would help them in their personal and professional life. This fact is reinforced by the evidence that more than 50% of students in research strongly agreed that field trips have helped to increase their knowledge. (The Educational Value of Field Trips, Rahman T., Spafford H., Research. com)

Keeping all these arguments in mind, there is no denial of the fact that schools play an important role in imparting education, but to argue that schools are the only means of education transmission, lack the argumentative support.

Schools do play an important role, but at the same time we cannot deny the fact that family is the one which determines the interest, capacity and understanding about various things. Schools build a building on base, that parents have set up. A kid in class always tries to relate the new information learnt with the already gained information, which comes from family. In fact due to complexity and variety of knowledge provided by <sup>the</sup> schools, parents are moving towards home-schooling and utilizing the institution of family to disseminate knowledge. In United States, the population of home-schooled children grew from 2% to 8%, with the drastic increase in last two years. (Home Schooling: The Research [nheri.com](http://nheri.com)). This highlights the role of family as source of disseminating education.

The recent trend of moving towards home-schooling has been observed due to deteriorating environment of schools. The argument that only schools provide the idealistic learning environment got a hit. There used to be times when schools were the had the good learning environment, but this reduced slowly. In these days, schools are also exposed to the negative behaviours of outside world. Children consider themselves free from the check of their parents and engage more in anti-social behaviour than normal. This argument is supported by the fact that many teenagers try out cigarette in the high-schools. In a study conducted by Americans

Addiction Centers, 1 out of 10 of all alcohol consumed in US is consumed by High School students. By the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 2/3 students have tried alcohol. (Statistics of Drug Use in High School, americanaddictioncenters.org). This shows that the environment of learning in schools is not safe anymore.

○ Besides the failure to provide stable learning environment, schools are also criticized for providing only the formal education. Schools are focused on developing a workforce that is alienated from self, family and society and has developed only the workaholic skill in school. In these modern times, a person needs several skills or a skill set having variety that can help him to not only cope with the fast changing environment but also to act as a useful person in this environment. Unfortunately schools only specialize in providing the formal education but not the informal skill set.

The importance of schools decreases with the fact that not only its scope is limited, but also the opportunities of learning through technology are so vast that schools no longer fit in the picture. The comfort and opportunity of self-learning outweighs the tiresome exercise of visiting schools to obtain little knowledge. The internet provides a wide array of opportunities of learning and a spectrum of modes of learning is through games, videos, interactive animations et cetera. Youtube, a

video sharing websites offer almost course for almost everything. The pace and quantity of learning can be adjusted according to own needs unlike in schools where a strict timetable is followed. A woman named Ayesha, moved from Abbottabad to Islamabad with his son. A kid in Islamabad, Pakistan, name Aliad runs animation service, who learned to animate on youtube. Therefore, the opportunities the Technological advances provide, are reducing the necessity of schools.

The Technological means are the one reason of reducing trends of schooling, but when pondered upon, it comes to light that the limited role of schools is itself a reason for reducing roles of schools in society. The schools become irrelevant for people of older ages who want to gain education. There are rules set up in such a way that enables only certain age group to access the schools, whereas learning is a life long process and true learning starts with the hands-on experience. Therefore, the limited role of schools is in itself evident that schools are not the only means of disseminating education.

In a nutshell, school play an important role in providing the education. It provides multiple opportunities of learning through different means. It tries to create an inclusive learning environment and focus on divergent skill set, yet they fail to occupy the role of only educationist in the society.

The learning process starts from cradle and grows with the growth of a baby. The baby first learns from family and then from friends and relatives. This learning circle expands with time and includes the technology usage and experiencing things as most reliable sources. The schools have their own importance, but the importance of other factors is no less.