Are Schools the only Means of Disseminating Education?

42/100

Outline

GOOD ATTEMPT

① Introduction

Thesis Statement

School is the fundamental social institution that provides both formal and informal education. However, there are other means of disseminating education like family, religion, Community. etc. Nevertheless, Schools give directed and Comprehensive education.

② Education and its meaning

③ Schools are the only means of disseminating education. (Thesis)

(i) They provide formal education.
(ii) They develop skills and Expertises
(iii) They nurture cultural values and maintain societal identity
(iv) They socialize Human beings

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(v) They teach rules, laws and regulation of a state

(4) Schools are losing their ground as a means of education. (Antithesis)

(i) Formal education can be disseminated online.

(ii) Skills and expertises have been changed in modern times.

(iii) In a hyper-globalization era, the World is a global village.

(iv) Family, religious and other institutions also socialize humans

(v) Learning is an unending process

(5) Schools still ensure fundamental education to humans. (Synthesis)

(i) Online platforums are helping schools for comprehensive education rather as alternatives

(ii) Schools set base for all levels of skills and expertises

(iii) Societies always maintain their cultural identities through schools.

(iv) Schools act as an umbrella for all other institutional needs.

(v) Schools are the building blocks for life-time learning Phenomenon

⑥ Conclusion

In childhood, going to school is one of the favourite and regular actions of the most of the children. Some can disagree with it. Schools are the hubs of education, sports, friends, entertainment and so on. No one can deny the importance of schools as a building block of human society. They provide formal education; nurture cultural values and norms, develop skills and expertise in children; teach good citizen and human being ethics and morals; and socialize students with community. However, some argue that schools are losing grand against the modern changing in the world. The world has become a global village, numerous online platforms provide free education; and other social institutions are more crucial than educational one. Nevertheless, schools are the fundamental social institutions that provide comprehensive and composite education. They reinforce the needs of other social institutions like family and religion.

Education can have different meanings and definitions. Different philosophers, educationists, professors, and leaders explain the meaning of education. Plato. define education as a means to seek truth. Aristotle differed with Plato and called for proper educational institution to train people. In modern times, education has changed it's scope and significance. Yet, the purpose of education has remained the same despite changing centuries: that is to make a man human. Schools have been the arsenals of disseminating education inspite of modern means of learning. For example, when Sir Syed Ahmed Khan took the responsibility of educating the Muslims of the Sub-continent, he established schools, colleges, etc. Currently, the modern technology is taking the place of educati schools, as some people argue. However, schools are adopting these new means of education for making education comprehensive.

Schools provide formal education to the students. There are two types of education: Formal and informal. Formal education means a student is taught with proper structure, syllabus, and environment. Schools provide that formality of education. There is a proper school building, fixed timing of the school, books and teachers, etc. Both public and private educational institutions fulfill these requirement. For example, all the great scientists, philosophers, educationists, sociologists, etc went to formal schools to get early education. There is no deny to the importance of formal education, and schools provide it. In Islamic history, the Prophet (P.B.U.H) established 'Sufah' as a formal school back in 624 A.D. This was the indication towards the importance of education and it should be in a formal way. Schools provide formal education which can not be possible other way around. Hence, schools are

the only means of disseminating education in a proper and formal way.

Formal structure of education in schools develop skills and expertises in the children. They nurture the life skills and mastery in the students. For example, reading, writing, sports, skills, etc are taught in the schools. If the West could rule in the world, it was possible by the dint of their schools like Oxford, Cambridge, Harward, etc which developed skills and expertises in their students. Therefore, Newton, Einestine, Marie Curie, like scientists were produced who wondered the world therefore their discoveries and inventions. There is no doubt about the importance of education in schools. Today, India is looking for international leadership. This is possible of its dedicated hard work on formal education that can develop skills and abilities in the students. So, it can be summed

up that schools develop skills and abilities in the students.

Skills and expertises developed by the schools help students to maintain their cultural identity and value. Schools are the arsenals of Societal cohesion and integration. They nurture the social values of a society through formal and informal way. For example, Single National Curriculum was an initiative of the Pakistan government where schools were advised to disseminate formal education along with cultural values and identity. Currently, China is re-educating the people of Uighur Muslims to assimilate them in Chinese culture. Schools are the source of national integration. Once former prime minister of the UK, Winston Churchill, advised the people that if schools gt were functional and Courts were dispensing justice, there was no need to worry about the results of war. Therefore, it

can be argued that schools are the source of nurturing cultural values and norms.

With the nurturing of social ethos and morals by the schools, humans socialize themselves. One of the basic functions of all the social institutions is socialization of human beings. **According to Emile Durkheim,** social institutions particularly education are meant to socialize people, and maintain societal structure. Schools socialize children formally as well as informally. Students interact with each others in the classes, on the fields and in the canteens. They exchange ideas and views about different things. In that way, schools become the base of socialization. Student-teacher interaction during lecture further reinforces this socialization process. Hence, it can be summed up that schools socialize humans beings.

Socialization process

in the schools teaches rules, laws and regulation of a state. Schools through formal structure guide children about the rules and regulation of a state. Teachers explain the purpose of rules in a society and how they maintain social order in a community. Schools disseminate education about the laws of the government. Sometimes, teachers explain the students through examples and practises. Assembly hall in a school generates collectiveness and community spirit. While the national anthem reinvigorates the ideology of a state. To conclude it, one can say that schools teach rules and regulation of a state and education children to become good citizens.

Contrary to this school of thought, some argue that schools are losing their worth in a rapidly changing environment. They explain that

Formal education can be taken from online platforum. To support their argument, they give an example of rise of online courses especially during the pandamic in 2020. All the schools were closed due to lockdowns. But online platforums were disseminating education. For example, Teleschool Education was initiated by the government of Pakistan in 2020 in the wake Covid-19 lockdowns. Such initiatives have altered the concept of schools and their infrastructurel presence. They argue that it was online platforum of education that minimized the loss of learning in Pakistan. Hence, there is no need of schools as a formal educational centres ces online platforoms are providing that opportunity.

With online education and technological advancement, skills and expertises' native has been changed Modern technology has altered the concept of education. Traditionally

students were taughts about horse riding, archery, and other sports. However, rapidly changing technological growth has been demanding new abilities like computer science, coding, information technology, etc. People are earning more on online platforms like upwork, Fiver, Amazone, etc. It requires new skills and abilities. Schools are not meant for such kind of capabilities. Hence, they are losing their ground on the field of developing neuss skills especially techaical ones.

Changing technology is also effecting the cultural values and norms along with skills and expertise. In the modern, the era, the world has become a global village. Almost universal cultural values are being practised. Technology helps to make that process quick. Cultural values and norms are also almost same. Eating habits are same. As per one sociologist, it is

'Macdonalization' of the world.

So, the traditional purpose of schools to maintain ethos, values and cultures is crumbling. Assimilation of different cultures due to rapid globalization has changed the scenario altogether. For example, there is a cultural value in Asian society: respect of elders and parents especially. However, the rise of individualism in the world is affecting their cultural value. The concept of 'old homes' is gaining acceptance in the modern and urban areas of Asian countries. Therefore, it can be argued that schools which are meant for nurturing cultural values are losing ground in the universalisation of culture.

A global village spreads the same kind of values over its territory. Now the Socialization is not only the responsibility of schools but it is also the obligation of family and religious institutions. Before the formalisation of

school education, family social institution has remained the first institution that a man interacts. Now, after the rise of online education, buisnesses and services in the world, children are more likely to stay at home. Therefore, it has become the responsibility of family institution to socialize them. According to a sociologist, Ibn-Khaldun, religion uses the force of cohesion 'Asabiya' that integrates community spirit in humans. Therefore, it can be summed up that schools are not the only tenets of socialization but family and religion are also played their roles in this regard.

Learning is an unending phenomenon that never stops even after the schooling years. Education in school can teach some rules and regulation, but, the process of learning is on going. As the Prophet (P.B.U.H) said, "learn from the lap of mother

to the grave." Schools may initiate the process of learning but the family, eo religion, society, community, friends, etc play their respective role in the learning and socialization. Political and economic institutions in a society teach people about the ethos of dealing with people. It is not always the duty of schools to propagate the state ideology. Private institutions are not dependent on the state's funding; therefore, they're not under that obligation of such proposition. Thus, schools are not the only means of disseminating education to people.

       While online platforums have changed the nature of education, skills and expertises; but, they did not take the place of schools so far. Education is still primarily disseminated by the schools. Online platforums have decreased the learning losses of children during covid-19; however, after the lockdowns schools

were opened again. It means that schools still retain their position. Moreover, can online platforms be able to increase the enrollment number in Pakistan? Still 22m children are out of schools. (Source: UNICEF). These digital initiatives did nothing to decrease that number. In addition, the technological limitations and socio-economic disparities within a state hampered education access to children via online platforms. Internet penetration ratio in the developing world is less than 40%. In such scenario, schools with proper infrastructure play their role in education. Hence, schools still ensure education in its traditional form.

In the rise of Universalisation of cultures, ideologies and values, societies do not forget their morals and ethos. They always try to maintain their separate identity in any manner. There are numerous

examples that reinforce cultural identities through educational rel and religious institutions. For example, the social and religious movements of Shah wali ullah and Mujadid Alif sani in the sub-continent developed educational institutions and schools to maintain islamic identity in the age of cultural attacks. They developed institutions like Rahimiya School for religious education. Similarly, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established schools for Muslims political consciousness and social development. Thus, schools are always act as launching pad against cultural intrusions.

Learning process never ends in life but It starts from school education. It sets the base for upcoming adventures of life. Schools are the building blocks of life-time developing process. It is school that regulates the animal spirits of a child. A building without its base cannot

survival. Similarly, a man without basic education in schools cannot survive in the harsh realities of the world. In difficult times, it is the education that is set in school is tested. There is not a single example of a society which grows on the without school education. Schools are the arsenals of learning. For example, the UK prime Minister Rishi Sunak advised his administration to develop a compulsory course of school 'maths' in schools. Therefore, it can be concluded that schools are the base of growth and development.

In a nutshell, schools are the fundamental means of disseminating education. They provide formal education, nurture values and cultural norms, develop skill and expertise and socialize people in a society. On the other hand, some people argue that in a changing environment, schools are not the only source of

Sharing information and education. Technological advancement has provided online platforums for education which are replacing schools. Skills are changing in digital world. Therefore, in the age of information, and technology, schools are losing their ground in providing education. However, digital world may asset assit assist education and learning process; but, it did not replace the schools as a launching-pad for life-long learning process. Schools will retain their position as the arsenals of education in forseable future.