

FORMAL, INFORMAL & NON FORMAL EDUCATION

EDUCATION DEFINED

- **The term „education“ as outlined by Taneja (1990) originates from two Latin words „educare“ which means „bring up“ and „educere“, meaning „bring forth“.**
- **In essence, the term suggests maintenance and transmission of life through endowing one with intelligence, industriousness and ensuring progress.**

- **Education, therefore-Leads to individual creativity and improved participation in:**
- **social,**
- **economic,**
- **cultural and**
- **political life of society, and**
- **hence to a more effective contribution to human development”, (Kelly, 1999:03).**

➤ **Education goes beyond what takes place within the classroom environment.**

➤ **A child gets the education from his experiences outside the school as well as from those within.**

There are three main forms of education,

i. Formal,

ii. Informal and

iii. Non-formal.

- Each of these types is discussed below.**

FORMAL EDUCATION

- **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.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF FORMAL EDUCATION

- **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.**

EXAMPLES OF FORMAL EDUCATION

- **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.**

ADVANTAGES OF FORMAL EDUCATION:

- **An organized 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 organized.**
- **Leads to a formally recognized certificate.**
- **Easy access to jobs.**

DISADVANTAGES OF FORMAL EDUCATION:

- **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

- **It 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.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF INFORMAL EDUCATION

- 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.**

ADVANTAGES OF INFORMAL EDUCATION

- **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 utilizing books, libraries, social media, internet or getting assistance from informal trainers.**
- **Utilizes 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 able to pick up information from books, TV, radio or conversations with their friends/family members.**

DISADVANTAGES OF INFORMAL EDUCATION

- **Information acquired from the internet, social media, TV, radio or conversations with friends/family members may lead to the disinformation.**
- **Utilized 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 EDUCATION

- **It is imparted consciously and deliberately and systematically implemented.**
- **It should be organized 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**

CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- **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.**

EXAMPLES OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- **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 organization.**

ADVANTAGES OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- **Practical and vocational training.**
- **Naturally growing minds that do not wait for the system to amend.**
- **Literacy with skillfulness 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.**

DISADVANTAGES OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- **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.**