

Educational Psychology

Paper III

B.A. II (Hons.)

Formal Education

Formal education is usually provided in an institutional setting (e.g. school, university, college, etc). Typically, there is a syllabus and the student's learning is subjected to an assessment. Home schooling is an example of formal education delivered in a non-institutional setting though (typically in the home).

Formal education is that which is consciously and deliberately planned for the modification of behaviour with a particular end in view. Formal education is undertaken in schools or institutions specifically established and maintained for the purpose. It, therefore, takes the form of schooling, tuition and instruction. As the child goes to a school, he has to be formal and act according to the discipline of that school. He is conscious of the fact that he goes to that school for getting education. He is aware of his presence in the school throughout the day. Similar is the case with the teacher. He too, is aware of all these things. Thus both the pupil and the teacher deliberately engage themselves in the process of education with predetermined objective in view. In a school, not only the atmosphere is formal, but the curriculum and methods of teaching are also formal. These are fixed in advance with clear cut ends in view. All teaching is formal.

It may however, be maintained that any process of teaching which involves supervision, instructions, set plan, definite aim and principles, amounts to formal education, no matter whether given in school or a workshop. As such, it also includes vocational or general education imparted by parents in a formal way.

Formal Education Examples:

- Classroom learning
- Grading from the schools, college and university degree.
- Having a proper syllabus about a subject and learning about them by attending great institutions.

Formal Education System:

- The structure of formal education is hierarchical.
- This kind of education is calculative and planned.
- The grading system is chronological in nature.
- Every subject taught has got a syllabus. The syllabus needs to be completed within a certain time span.
- The teachers teach children.

Benefits of Formal Education:

- Education is given in an organized manner.
- Students learn from professional teachers and professors.
- It provides a systematic learning process.
- Half-yearly or yearly assessments are taken to check the progress of the students.
- Schools, colleges, and Universities are well organized, physically and monetarily.
- Students get recognized certification.

Cons of Formal Education:

- In a classroom some students are good and some are bad. It's obvious that students may adopt bad habits from some of their classmates.
- Some students are lazy in their class hours. They are actually wasting their own time.
- Some unprofessional institutes waste both time and money of the students. Thus, the question arises against formal education.
- Formal Education is a bit costly than other education systems.

Dr. Hena Hussain

Asst. Professor

Department of Psychology

Oriental College, Patna City

WhatsApp No. – 9334067986

Email-drhenahussain@gmail.com