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**L4**

**SEMESTER II**

**Paper CC5: Educational Studies and System**

**Unit II Education as Interdisciplinary Knowledge**

*Dear students*

Today's our point of discussion is:

**Dynamic Relationship of Education with the Social and Political Process**

**Dynamic Relationship of Education with the Political Process**

Politics is, more generally, the art of influencing people and more narrowly, influencing to attain and retain power and control over governance. It also encompasses the making and execution of laws and policy. It is both in the broader and the narrower sense of politics that we will see it in relation to and impact on education.

Education is and always has been a contested terrain. It is shaped by the politics of the day. The educated Indian middle class, however, naively believes that politics, in principle, does not and in practice should not, influence school practice. This happens because politics is often considered dirty and polluting. But the reality is that politics shapes society to a large extent, both positively and negatively.

School practice is an integral and perhaps one of the most important parts of education. It is guided by the philosophy and perspectives of the teacher, the curriculum and material developer, the educational administrator, and the community. Philosophies and perspectives, as they are, are formed by cultural and political thought of the times.

The problem is with the naïve belief that education is apolitical – it does not and should have anything to do with politics. But as we have seen, education is an integral part of politics. In fact, education is political, whether it is progressive or conserving. Hence, depending on the state of centralization of educational decision-making, of which we are a part, we can, assume larger or smaller changes in educational policy and practice.

**What is the Relationship between Education and Political Ideas?**

- A recurring theme in the debates about “political education” is the effect that schools or other educational institutions have on influencing the political involvement of students.

- One of the theoretical objectives of education is to achieve politically active individuals.
- Now, to what extent are education and political ideas related? And what is the nature of that relationship?
- We focus on the effects that formal education has on political life.
- Obviously, education covers much more than what happens in purely academic life, but this is a great factor to consider.

In this sense, the “political effects” that we are going to take into account in this article are:

- political implication,
- political attitude and
- political knowledge.

**External variables that affect education and political ideas:** Following are some key factors which affect Dynamic Relationship of Education with the Political Process:

- **Cognitive abilities, personality and socio-economic level:** In the case of cognitive abilities, the relationship is quite obvious. A higher verbal capacity, an abstract reasoning, a good memory, together with other capacities, help to progress both in formal education and in political capacity. Regarding personality, it is important to understand that certain attitudes can affect education and political ideas.
- **Socio-economic level:** since political life and higher formal education are socially restricted domains. Many people can't study for a career because they do not have the necessary resources to do so. In the same way, those with a low socio-economic status do not usually spend time in political life; either because they are expelled from it directly or because they spend most of their time trying to survive in precarious working conditions.
- **Direct variables in education that affect political ideas:** Within the great variability that exists within formal education and we find that different ways of organizing such as education causes differences in what we have called political capacity.

**What specific aspects affect the relationship between education and politics?**

The most relevant are: The contents of the curriculum and the educational values. The contents of the curriculum can have a direct influence on the political knowledge acquired by students. For obvious reasons, the direct instruction of political concepts generates future citizens with a greater capacity for political analysis. In addition, the nature of these contents greatly affects the student's political position. That is to say, a political education that highlights the advantages of liberalism will probably generate people more related to this current.

Education in values based on dialogue, debate and a critical vision of the facts is essential to generate a political attitude in the students. If individuals receive a closed and hierarchical education, they become accustomed to the dogmas and authority that do not support a critical attitude towards politics.

Influence of Political System on Indian Education:

In the ancient India, educational policy was very much dependent on the religious system. There were three prime strands of education at that time. They were Vedic tradition, Jain system of education and Buddhist system of education. The castes did not constitute a rigid description of the occupation or the social status of a group.

The policy was pursued in the aid of three goals:

1. To sponsor Indians in their own culture,
2. To advance knowledge of India, and
3. To employ that knowledge in government.”

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