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What are the merits of non formal education

Non-formal education is a great tool we can all use to enhance life-long learning as it offers a great many benefits that complement formal education. In this post, we list the best of the best and discuss how a cultural exchange can help us really make the most of them! If you want to know more, keep reading! Non-formal education: definition and benefits As we explained in a previous post about the importance of non-formal education and the difference compared to formal and informal education, our focus today is defined as "any organised educational activity outside the established formal system". It can be done "separately or as part of a larger activity depending on the participants or learning objectives" (Philip H. Coombs, Prosser and Ahmed). Formal education is a necessary part of learning and helps with personal growth, above all in our first few years of school, but it doesn't necessarily meet every objective. This is where the non-formal aspect reveals its potential, offering learning that's tailored to individual needs, regardless of our age, background or interests. But, what are the main characteristics and benefits of non-formal education? Here are some that top the list: It is always relevant and can be adapted to the needs of each person and society, especially if it's focus is placed on the future. The activities get participants involved in their communities and helps them discover alternate ways of life. It can be adapted depending on each person's stage of development or learning. Non-formal education activities tend to be more versatile and can change depending on the needs of the those involved. It ends up being a much more flexible learning method than formal education, which is regulated by definition. It's participative, in the sense that those involved learn actively by working in a team. What's more, this allows people to really express themselves. They have a chance to be more outgoing and sociable. It's a style of learning that encourages inclusion and diversity. It's a method that inherently respects difference, which in itself becomes a source of learning and growth. For all the above, and much more, non-formal education experiences are transformed into high-quality education programmes. But, what kind of activities are we talking about? Non-formal education can be very varied and some experiences have strong roots in European countries. For example, in Scotland, community service is a common venture. As well as helping the most vulnerable people in society, it generates a stronger sense of community among neighbours and a sense of belonging, which transcends origins and backgrounds. Alternatively, in countries such as Italy and France, it's more common to promote the performing arts, such as theatre groups that involve children or people with special needs. A similar example is Scouts, which has always been hugely popular in the United Kingdom, Germany, and later in Catalonia. At dothegap, we believe the cultural exchange to be one of the greatest examples of non-formal education. As you can see, characteristics such as versatility, adaptability, promoting participation and defending diversity are common to both activities! Go on an exchange with dothegap! Cultural exchanges are a very valuable style of non-formal education. These experiences help complement formal learning by building upon current knowledge or helping us understand certain concepts better, but it also helps us appreciate values that are increasingly necessary in our global society, such as diversity and cultural understanding. In addition, it doesn't depend on age, origin or discipline! Everyone can contribute their ideas and interests and experiences can take any shape or form. As such, both non-formal education and cultural exchanges should be much more commonplace, and encouraged until they become an integral part of our learning journey. The best way to achieve this is by creating a network of contacts. Dothegap is a community focused on cultural exchange, one on one, in a simple and direct way without intermediaries, meaning there are no additional costs. Organise your trip whenever, wherever and with whomever you want thanks to our platform. So, want to experience the potential of non-formal education? Go on an exchange with dothegap! Take the first step: sign up and upload your exchange proposal for our whole community to see. We're waiting for you! Education is a gradual process which brings positive changes in human life and behavior. We can also define education as "a process of acquiring knowledge through study or imparting the knowledge by way of instructions or some other practical procedure". What is education? Education brings a natural and lasting change in an individual's reasoning and ability to achieve the targeted goal. It facilitates us to investigate our own considerations and thoughts and makes it ready to express it in various shapes. Education is the main thing that encourages us to distinguish between right and wrong because in the absence of education, we can't do what we need or we can't achieve our goal. Straightforwardly, we can say, "education is the passage to progress". It is additionally the way to our fate as achievements can only be accomplished when individuals have information, aptitudes, and frame of mind. In this way, education resembles a medium through which we can associate with various individuals and offer our thoughts. To tackle issues and do inventiveness we first need to gain proficiency with some essential abilities. We require learning and abilities to wind up increasingly imaginative. So education is fundamentally learning of abilities and ideas that can make us increasingly innovative and issue solver. Education is to pick up the capacity to develop and take care of issues in order to achieve their lawful motives. You may also like: Philosophy of Education Types of Education Education also means helping people to learn how to do things and encouraging them to think about what they learn. It is also important for educators to teach ways to find and use information. Through education, the knowledge of society, country, and of the world is passed on from generation to generation. In democracies, through education, children and adults are supposed to learn how to be active and effective citizens. More specific, education helps and guide individuals to transform from one class to another. Empowered individuals, societies, countries by education are taking an edge over individuals stand on the bottom pyramid of growth. Read also: Meaning & Nature of Education Types of Education Education goes beyond what takes places within the four walls of the classroom. A child gets the education from his experiences outside the school as well as from those within on the basis of these factors. There are three main types of education, namely, Formal, Informal and Non-formal. Each of these types is discussed below. Formal Education Formal education or formal learning 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. Post-secondary education (or higher education) is usually at a college or university which may grant an academic degree. It is associated with a specific or stage and is provided under a certain set of rules and regulations. The formal education is given by specially qualified teachers they are supposed to be efficient in the art of instruction. It also observes strict discipline. The student and the teacher both are aware of the facts and engage themselves in the process of education. 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. 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 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 Informal education may be a parent teaching a child how to prepare a meal or ride a bicycle. People can also get an informal education by reading many books from a library or educational websites. Informal education 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. Unlike formal education, informal education is not imparted by an institution such as school or college. Informal education is not given according to any fixed timetable. There is no set curriculum required. Informal education consists of experiences and actually living in the family or community. Examples of Informal Education Teaching the child some basics such as numeric characters. Someone learning his/her mother tongue A spontaneous type of learning, "if a person standing in a bank learns about opening and maintaining the account at the bank from someone." 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 picked up the requisite 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. Read also: Importance of education: comprehensive article Non-formal Education Non-formal education includes adult basic education, adult literacy education or school equivalency preparation. In nonformal education, someone (who is not in school) can learn literacy, other basic skills or job skills. Home education, individualized instruction (such as programmed learning), distance learning and computer-assisted instruction are other possibilities. Non-formal education 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. Examples of Non-formal Education Boy Scouts and Girls Guides develop some sports program such as swimming comes under nonformal education. Fitness programs. Community-based adult education courses. Free courses for adult education developed by some organization. Characteristics of Non-formal Education The nonformal 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. Nonformal 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. Advantages of Non-formal Education Practiced 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. Analysis of Formal, Informal & Non-formal Education This table shows the difference between formal, informal and nonformal education. Criteria of AnalysisFormal EducationInformal EducationNon-Formal Education DefinitionFormal education is a methodical and composed training model that organized and controlled by a given arrangement of laws and standards, exhibiting a somewhat inflexible educational programs as respects goals, content and procedure. Casual or informal education is different from formal training and especially from non-formal training, despite the fact that in specific cases it is equipped for keeping up a cozy association with both. Informal instruction does not really incorporate the destinations and subjects for the most part included by the customary educational program. Non-formal education qualities are discovered when the received methodology does not require learner participation, diminishing the contacts among instructor and learner and most exercises happen outside the school, for example, home reading and desk work. InstancesAcquiring proper knowledge from educational institutions like school, college & university.Students discussion, learning outside the classroom, use of DVD having educational lectures & TV shows.Non-credit adult educational programs, sports programs planned by community association, online courses. Course contentsProperly organize information based on facts. Multidisciplinary field information.Particular knowledge of specific domain. Type of activitiesFormal activitiesRoutine training Calming activitiesNon-formal activities (outside the school, classroom and after getting jobs) OutcomePositive and projectedPositive or negative and non-projectedPositive and projected Source of acquiring knowledgeSchools, colleges, universities and other educational institutionsInternet, Social Media, electronic/print media, group discussion amongst friends/family membersOutside the educational institution Way of acquiring knowledge DirectIndividual, implicitDirect Advantages Organized, structured and systemic learning process end with recognized certificate which leads to access a reasonable job.Naturally learning process as you learn from daily experience, less costly and time proficient, no need to hire experts, learn from social media, electronic & print media, internet and other sources.Practiced and vocational trainings. Literacy with skillfulness growth, flexibility in age, curriculum and time, no regular exams. Disadvantages Costly and rigid education, long academic session, adoption of bad habits during study hours, unprofessional trainers may cause the wastage of time and money as well.Unreliable sources of information, no proper time schedule, inappropriate techniques, unpredictable results, absence of confidence and discipline in learner.Non-regular turnout of learners, no regular exam so no degree/certificate is awarded at the end of a training session which is just undue consumption of precious time. Download: Types of Education PDF what are the merits and demerits of informal formal non-formal and alternative education. what are the advantages of non formal education. what are the benefits of non formal education. what is the importance of non formal education

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