



# TYPES OF EDUCATION

Formal, Informal,  
Non-formal

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**Education** is a gradual process which brings positive changes in the 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".

## FORMAL EDUCATION

- *School/institutions involved*
- *Has hierarchical structure*
- *Uniform, full time and proper*
- *Subject oriented*
- *Certification/degrees*

## INFORMAL EDUCATION

- *Practical adult learning*
- *Diversity in methods and content*
- *Mobilizes local resources*
- *Built on learner's participation*
- *Real life examples of learning*

## NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- *Very long process*
- *Learning from experience*
- *Learning from home*
- *Learning from environment*
- *Learning from work*

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## MEANING & TYPES OF EDUCATION:

**Education** is a gradual process which brings positive changes in the 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".

**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 other. Empowered individuals, societies, countries by education are taking an edge over individuals stand on the bottom pyramid of growth.

## 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 briefly described below.

### FORMAL EDUCATION

**Formal education or formal learning** usually takes place in the premises of 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 the 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

## 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.

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## 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."

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## 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 the 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.

## 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-form, 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.

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## EXAMPLES OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- Boy Scouts and Girls Guides develop some sports program such as swimming comes under the nonformal education.
- Fitness programs

- Community-based adult education courses
- Free courses for adult education developed by some organization

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## 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 the theoretical formal education, it is practical and vocational education.
- Nonformal education has no age limit.
- Fees are 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.