

Q. What is equality of educational opportunity? Discuss some problems regarding equalization of educational opportunity.

Ans: Equality of opportunity means that every citizen of a country must be equally benefitted by the schemes of its government. When we say, equalization of educational opportunity means that every citizen must get equal opportunities in every matter related to education.

Equality of educational opportunity refers to equality in the quality of education received. The Sergeant's Report of 1944 had suggested that equality of educational opportunity can be provided at the primary stage through free schooling and other facilities.

## **Problems regarding Equalisation of Educational Opportunities :**

Various problems act as barrier in ensuring equalisation of educational opportunities and leading to inequalities in this field, some of them are as follows :

1. In our country we still have place where there are no primary and secondary schools nor to talk of a college. Again, in some places where there are primary and secondary schools they are far from the homes of the children. Therefore, children who have schools in their neighbourhood have access to them and those who don't have such facilities are debarred of educational opportunities.
2. We know that a large section of our population is very poor. Children of families facing poverty cannot afford to pay their school fees and therefore, have to leave schools.
3. There also exists inequality amongst the children of the rural and urban areas. Children studying in rural schools do not get much facilities as the schools are not well equipped. Whereas, the institutions in the urban areas are well equipped and provide more informative environment, so the, children studying there also get better facilities, children of urban areas even get better chance of admission in institutes of higher or professional learning.
4. Inequalities also arise due to differences in home environments. Children coming from rural and urban areas do not get the same opportunity of education. It is the same in case of children coming from slum areas and upper class. Again, there is a difference in the educational facilities for the children whose



parents are illiterate and those whose parents are well educated.

5. In our country, we also find a difference in educational discrimination amongst the children on the basis of sex. The social customs and taboos act as hindrances in the path of education of the girls. It is often observed that the boys are given better educational opportunities than the girls. In some families girls are not allowed to pursue education at all.
6. There is a wide gap between the education of the backward and advanced classes. The children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Tribes and other weaker sections of the society are not provided the same educational opportunities like that of the children of advanced classes.

**Q. What is the need of equalisation of educational opportunities? Mention some steps to be taken to provide equal education to all children.**

**Ans: Need of equalisation of educational opportunities :**

Equality in education is of great need in our country due to the following reasons :

1. Equality in education helps in establishing an egalitarian society whose norms are equality and social justice.
2. The success of democratic institutions in a democracy can be assured only when all the people are educated.
3. Equalisation of educational opportunities can help in rapid advancement of a nation because every citizen when educated can develop native talent and contribute to the enrichment of the society.
4. Equalisation of educational opportunities helps in establishment of a closer link between the manpower needs of a society and the availability of skilled personnel.

The **Education Commission of 1964-66** has suggested the following measures to be adopted for providing equal opportunities in education :

1. The country should work towards a stage when all education should be tuition free. From this point of view -
  - a) Tuition fees at the primary stage should be abolished in all the schools as early as possible and preferably before the end of the fourth plan.
  - b) Lower secondary education should be made tuition free in all schools preferably before the end of the fifth plan.
  - c) For the next ten years, the main efforts with regard to fees in higher secondary and university education should be to extend provisions of tuition, free education to all needy and deserving students.
2. Free text books and writing materials should be provided at the primary stage.
3. Transport facilities should be provided imaginatively to reduce the cost on hostels and scholarships.
4. Facilities for students to earn and pay a part of their educational expenses should be developed.
5. There should be liberal schemes for scholarship. At the higher education level the Government of India should assume the bulk of such responsibility. At the school stage this responsibility should vest in the state Government.
6. There are wide differences in the educational development in different states. These become wider still at the district level. A reduction of the differences to the minimum is desirable.



## Modernisation

The most important function of education is modernization. Modernization is a comprehensive concept aimed at capturing, describing the transition of a society from medieval to modern culture. It does not devote any philosophy or movement, but it only symbolises a process of change. In fact, "modernization" is understood as a process which indicates the adoption of the modern ways of life and values. It also indicates a change in people's habits, tastes, choices, preferences, ideas, values, recreational facilities and so on. It is also described as social change involving the elements of science and technology.

Today the term 'modernization' is understood as an attempt, on the part of the people, particularly those who are custom-bound, to adopt themselves to the present time, conditions, styles and ways in general.

### **Role of education in modernization :**

Education is the most important instrument of modernization from the very beginning. Following are the 'role of education in bringing modernization :

- 1. Change in attitudes and beliefs :** Education plays a significant role in the system of attitudes, beliefs and values. It also enhances the acceptability of modern technology.
- 2. Growth of the infrastructure :** Education helps in the growth of the infrastructure essential for adaptation to technology based specific national needs.
- 3. Establishing foundation of institutions and organization:** Education, establishes the foundations of institutions and organizations which could in time take the responsibility for innovation and technological growth.

**4. Creates skills and attitudes :** Education involves a sense of national loyalty and creates skills and attitudes essential for technological evolution.

**5. Importance in national development:** Importance of education in national development can not be divided which is believed to be associated with modernization. Education brings change in knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for national development. That is why in recent decades education including mass communication is given utmost importance.

**6. Identifies leaders :** Educational helps in identifying leaders who can impress upon the people to adopt modern beliefs, values, practices and behaviour patterns.

**7. Socialization :** As an instrument of socialization education projects new images and values. It helps in removing unnecessary attitudes and behaviour in modernization.

■ **Mention the characteristics of modernization. Distinguish between modernization and westernization.**

**Ans: Characteristics of modernization:**

The following characteristics of modernization may be outlined :

1. Modernization is a comprehensive concept describing the transition of a society from medieval to modern culture.
2. It symbolises a process of change.
3. It is a process which indicates the adoption of the modern ways of life and values.
4. It also indicates a change in people's food habits, dress habits, speaking styles, tastes, choices, preferences, ideas, values, recreational facilities and so on.
5. Modernization is described as social change involving the elements of science and technology.



6. It is an attempt for the custom bound people who adopt themselves to the present time, conditions, styles and ways in general.
7. It is a complex set of changes that take place almost in every part of society which attempts to become industrialized.
8. The basic process in modernization is the application of modern science to human affairs.

### **Difference between modernisation and westernisation :**

Following are the comparative views of modernization vs Westernization.:

1. Comparatively speaking the term modernization is a broader one and has a wider range of application. But the term westernization has recognised as a too local a label used specially for the Indian society under the British rule.
2. Modernization involves a transformation of social, political and economic organization. 'On the other hand westernization includes the behavioural aspects like eating, drinking, dressing, dancing, and knowledge aspects like literature, science and value aspects like humanitarianism.
3. Modernization is a mass process involving mass media. Whereas westernization is a middle class phenomenon.
4. Modernization process involves the replacement of sacred revelation by secular enlightenment in the guidance of human affairs. Westernization is inadequate in providing analysis of the on-going social change.
5. Modernization affects social structure, but westernization refers to only superficial change processes.

**What is westernization? Discuss the characteristics of westernization.**

## **Ans: Westernization :**

Westernization refers to social-culture changes of modern India especially in British and post-British India. British rule prevails and lasting changes in the Indian society and culture. The British brought with them new technology, institutions, knowledge, beliefs and values. These have become the main source of social mobility for individuals as well as groups. Even the British brought with them the printing as well as traditional knowledge to large number of Indians. Newspapers helped the people living in the remote comers.

Westernization had an impact on the style of living of the Indian people. They have not only developed their mistreating and consumption of alcohol habit but also adopted western style of dressing, dining. As Gandhiji Wrote in his "Autobiography," "Educated Indians undertook the task of "becoming English Gentlemen in their dress, manners, habits, choices, preferences etc." It included even learning to appreciate Western music and participating in ball dancing. Western education resulted in a big change in the outlook of those educated.

### **Characteristics of westernization:**

1. Westernization explains the impact of western contact (particularly of British rule) on the Indian society.
2. Westernization implies certain value preferences which includes humanitarianism. Humanitarianism implies an active concern for the welfare of all human beings irrespective of caste, economic position, religion, age and sex.
3. Westernization not only includes the introduction but also fundamental changes in old institutions. It uses mass media to bring these changes.



4. The form and pace of westernization of India varied from region to region and from one section of population to another.
5. Westernization influences the political fabric of the concerned societies.
6. The term westernization unlike modernization is ethically neutral.
7. Westernization accelerates public service facilities such as postal facilities, railways, newspaper, media. All these are the results of western impact on non-western societies.

■ **Define modernization. Discuss the causes of modernization.**

**Ans: Definition of modernization :**

According to Daniel Lerner, "modernization is the current term for an old process of social change whereby, less developed societies acquire the characteristics common to more developed societies."

**Aviaries** defined modernization as a process by which modern scientific knowledge is introduced in the society with the ultimate purpose of achieving a better and a more satisfactory life in the broadest sense of the term as accepted by the society concerned."

**Rotor and Ward** have said that the basic process in modernization is the application of modern science to human affairs.

**Causes of Modernisation :**

Modernisation is not a result of a single factors, rather number of factors are responsible for it. According to sociologists the following can be said to be the causes of modernisation:

**1. Education :** Education plays an important role in the process of modernisation. In the present days various innovations have taken place in the field of education pertaining to the fields of

science and technology Education helps in the creation skills and attitudes ragweed for technological innovation.

2. **Mass Communication** : Recent developments in the field of mass communication is greatly responsible for modernisation. Modes of mass communication including newspapers, magazines, television, radio, movies, telephone, internet etc. are very instrumental in spreading modem ideas at a very fast rate. Mass media opens up the society to new information thought and attitude.
3. **Ideology based on Nationalism** : Nationalism and democracy are two very important factors of modernisation. National awareness and political consensus play great role in bringing about a feeling of nationalism in the minds of the people.
4. **Charismatic Leadership** : Leaders with charisma have a better impression on the people. He/she can influence the people to adopt modem beliefs, values, practices and behaviour patterns. But, it has to be seen that these leaders do not try to take undue advantage of their position and make use of modem values and ideas for their own glorification.
5. **Coercive Governmental Authority** : Sometimes it is found that if the government is strong and stable it may adopt coercive measures to compel people to accept the modem values and ways of life. This may pressurise the other governments and people to follow the same.
6. **Urbanization and Industrialisation** : Urbanization and Industrialization are two very important process related to modernization. 'Urbanization' as a term means the process of growth and expansion of cities. And 'Industrialization' as a



term means the unprecedented growth and expansion of industries. These two processes have led to great economic and technological development.

7. **Universal Legal System** : The modern legal system which has taken the place of traditional customary law universally has accelerated the process of modernization. This system is more accepted and supports the cause "Individualism" leading to the protection of the rights and freedom of every individual.