

Education

*“Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.”
- William Butler Yeats*

*“The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge
and dissemination of truth.”
- John F. Kennedy*

1. Overview

- ‘Education’ is the process or act of imparting or acquiring knowledge, so as to develop powers of reasoning and judgment.
- It is the process of giving or receiving systematic instruction, particularly in institutions like schools.
- It is a systematic transfer of knowledge from one generation to another and a means for the enlightening of the individuals. The education process ensures the continuation of heritage and the survival of mankind.

2. Aims of Education

The aims of education can be seen from two aspects, namely, the individual and the society’s perspectives.

For the individual:

- **Cognitive / Mental Development** – develop strength to handle stress in life
- **Knowledge empowerment** – enrich their academic and general knowledge
- **Physical Development** – attain greater knowledge and skills to enhance the physical well-being of the individuals
- **Social and Emotional Development** – develop language and social protocol to enhance the well-beings of the individuals
- **Character and Moral Development** – instill moral values and nurture integrity which shape the civic individuals
- **Career Development** - pursue professional qualification to allow individuals to fulfill professional position like law degree for lawyers

For the nation or society:

- **Economic Aim** – Development of a productive labour force
- **Social Aim** – Cultivate civic and upright individuals in the society

- **Political Aim** – Empowers individuals politically, inculcating the people a sense of political responsibility. Also it provides the nation the political leadership

3. Agencies of Education

- Social and religious institutions
- Peers
- Mass Media
- School
- Family
- Government laws and campaigns

4. Strengths of education in Singapore

- The emphasis of Bilingualism
- The adoption of technology
- Very structured and well facilitated
- Well-trained teachers from a very structured education institution
- Accommodate different pace of learning

5. Limitations of education in Singapore

- Too exam-oriented, result-oriented
- Elitism – the product of meritocracy
- Lack of focus on skill development and life skills
- Consider the importance of life skills
- Too many activities – over stretching
- Too conforming – undermining the individualism
- Lack of focus on cognitive and mental development
- Risk-averse

6. Other areas of discussion

- What are the possible problems that we will encounter in an elitist society?
- Why are the advantages of an elitist society?
- Explain the ways how our education system is creating a conformist society?