



Sociological Foundations of Education: Society and Education as a Social Process

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Abstract

Education is a fundamental social institution that cannot be separated from the dynamics of society. This study examines the sociological foundations of education with a focus on the relationship between society and education as a social process. The purpose of this study is to explain how education functions not only as a means of knowledge transmission but also as a mechanism for socialization, value internalization, and the formation of social structures within society. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach based on literature review. Data were collected from various relevant books, journals, and scholarly articles discussing sociology of education and social interaction in educational contexts. The analysis focuses on understanding how social factors such as culture, norms, values, social stratification, and community interactions influence the educational process. The findings indicate that education plays a crucial role in shaping individuals as social beings who are able to adapt to societal expectations. At the same time, society also influences the direction, goals, and content of education. Thus, education and society are interdependent and continuously interact in shaping social change. Education is not only a reflection of society but also an agent of social transformation. In conclusion, the sociological foundation of education emphasizes that the educational process is inherently social in nature. Understanding this relationship is essential for developing an educational system that is responsive to social needs and capable of producing individuals who contribute positively to society.

Keywords: *Sociology Of Education, Social Process, Society, Education, Social Interaction*

INTRODUCTION

Education is an essential and inseparable part of human life, deeply interconnected with society. It is not merely understood as a process of transmitting knowledge from one generation to another, but also as a dynamic social process that takes place through continuous interaction between individuals and their social environment. From the perspective of educational sociology, education is seen as a means of shaping character, internalizing values, norms, and culture, as well as forming social behavior that enables individuals to function effectively within society.

The sociology of education emerges as a field of study that examines the reciprocal relationship between education and society. Education is influenced by various social factors such as culture, economic conditions, social structure, and the ongoing development of society. At the same time, education also plays a significant role in shaping social change, improving the quality of human resources, and contributing to the creation of a more advanced and civilized society. Therefore, education and society are inseparable, as both continuously influence and shape one another in a reciprocal relationship.

In modern society, education has become one of the most important needs in responding to the rapid development of science and technology. Through education, individuals learn moral values, social

responsibility, cooperation, and appropriate ways of interacting with others. Education also serves as a process of socialization that helps individuals understand the rules, norms, and expectations that exist within their community. In this sense, education plays a strategic role in maintaining social order and in developing a more progressive human civilization.

Furthermore, education as a social process does not only occur within formal school settings, but also within the family and broader community. The social environment has a significant influence on the success of an individual's education. The family is the first educational environment that shapes a child's personality and character, while schools and society continue this social formation through ongoing interaction and learning experiences. Therefore, the success of education requires strong cooperation between family, school, and society.

However, in reality, there are still various social issues in the field of education, such as educational inequality, low public awareness of the importance of education, negative environmental influences, and rapid social changes driven by technological advancement. These issues indicate that the relationship between education and society is highly complex, requiring a strong understanding of the sociological foundations of education so that the educational process can be aligned with the needs of society.

Based on this discussion, it is important to understand the sociological foundations of

education, particularly the concept of society and education as a social process in social life. By understanding these sociological aspects, education is expected to function effectively as a means of developing knowledgeable, morally responsible individuals who are capable of adapting to ongoing social changes in society.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research method using a library research approach. Library research is a method of inquiry conducted by collecting and analyzing various written sources such as books, scientific journals, and scholarly articles related to the sociological foundations of education, particularly the relationship between society and education as a social process. This approach is used to gain an in-depth understanding of the relationship between education and social life in society.

The type of research used is descriptive qualitative, which aims to systematically and comprehensively describe social phenomena in the field of education. This study focuses on examining the role of education as a social process, the relationship between education and society, and the function of education in shaping social change and individual character within the community.

The data sources in this study consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data are obtained from sociology of education

textbooks and scientific journals that discuss community education and social processes in education. Meanwhile, secondary data are derived from scientific articles, supporting documents, and other relevant references related to the research topic. Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation and literature review from various credible academic sources.

Data analysis is conducted by collecting, reading, understanding, classifying, and analyzing the content of various literature sources. The data are then systematically organized according to the main topics of the study, after which conclusions are drawn to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the sociological foundations of education, particularly education as a social process within society.

This research method is chosen because it is appropriate for examining theories of educational sociology and the relationship between education and social life through relevant and in-depth literature studies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sociology of Education

Sociology of education is a branch of sociology that examines the relationship between education and society. It studies how educational processes are influenced by the social environment and how education, in turn, influences social life. From this perspective, education is not merely viewed as a process of teaching and learning, but also as a social

process that shapes human behavior, character, values, norms, and culture within society.

Sociology of education helps in understanding various social issues in education, such as teacher–student relationships, the influence of family on education, the school social environment, social change, and the role of education in society. Therefore, sociology of education serves as an important foundation for understanding the function of education in human social life.

According to Émile Durkheim, education is a social process carried out by society to shape the younger generation so they are able to live in accordance with prevailing social values and norms. He argues that sociology of education studies how education contributes to social order and the formation of solidarity within society. Education functions to instill moral values, discipline, and social responsibility in learners.

S. Nasution states that sociology of education is a field of study that examines the relationship between society and education. Education is viewed as part of social life that is influenced by culture, environment, and social change. According to him, education serves to prepare individuals to live in society and perform their roles as responsible members of the community.

Binti Maunah explains that sociology of education is a discipline that studies all aspects of education in relation to society. It discusses social interactions within education, the relationship between schools and society, and the function of education in social life. She emphasizes that education cannot be separated from society

because it takes place through a social process involving family, school, and the wider community.

Abu Ahmadi argues that sociology of education is a field that studies social problems within education. It focuses on human interactions in educational settings and the influence of society on educational development. According to him, education functions to develop individuals who possess social competence and are able to live harmoniously within society (Sapitri et al., 2024).

The Role of Family and Society in the Educational Process

Education is one of the most important functions of social institutions that must be implemented optimally by the family, society, and government in an integrated manner. The success of education is not only measured by the quality of individuals, but also closely related to the quality of society in the context of nation-building and state development. Education is carried out through role modeling, the development of willingness, and the enhancement of learners' creativity by empowering and involving all components of society through participation in the implementation and quality control of educational services. This is because society is constantly changing, both in planned and unplanned ways. Therefore, education is required to respond quickly and adaptively to all social changes that occur within society.

The family is the most fundamental and essential institution in the educational process of human beings. It serves as the primary environment where education begins, since it is within the family

that individuals are born, grow, and develop into adulthood. The family is the first and foremost social group in society responsible for the basic educational process. It functions as the primary site of socialization, consisting of interconnected members such as father, mother, and children who cooperate and interact in daily life. Through these interactions, children learn the initial patterns of cooperation and social behavior needed to live with others.

In the educational process, families apply different patterns and methods of upbringing, which may vary from one household to another. These differences significantly influence the development of character, behavior, moral values, norms, and personality of each child. The education received within the family becomes the foundation for children to continue their education in other environments, particularly in formal schooling. Therefore, parental responsibility in education is not limited to academic support, but is more focused on shaping character, morality, discipline, and social behavior, including values such as cooperation, mutual assistance, environmental cleanliness, and maintaining harmony within the household.

According to Jalaluddin Rahmat, marriage is a prerequisite for the formation of a family, defined as a socially recognized sexual relationship that begins with public announcement, is guided by the idea of continuity, and includes mutual obligations between spouses and their children. He further explains that a family consists of two or more individuals who live together and are bound by

blood relations, marriage, or adoption. The family thus becomes the smallest social unit that plays a crucial role in shaping human personality and social behavior.

The family performs several important functions in social life. Its economic function is reflected in its role as an independent social unit in which members consume goods produced or obtained collectively. Its social function provides status and prestige to its members within society. The educational function ensures that values, knowledge, and skills are transmitted to children. The protective function safeguards family members from physical, economic, and psychosocial threats. The religious function instills spiritual and moral values, while the recreational function provides a space for relaxation and emotional bonding. Finally, the affective function emphasizes love, emotional support, and the continuation of generations. A family will function optimally when all these roles are carried out properly; otherwise, dysfunction may lead to social and emotional instability within the family system.

In terms of family structure, Robbins identifies three main types of family patterns. The authoritarian family type is characterized by strict parental control, where children's development is largely determined by parents, often resulting in children who are less independent, less confident, and slower in developing initiative. The democratic family type promotes open communication and balanced relationships, producing children who are flexible, responsible, socially adaptable, and able to accept criticism. The permissive or liberal family type allows children excessive freedom, which may

result in impulsive behavior, emotional instability, poor cooperation skills, and difficulties in social adaptation. These family patterns significantly influence a child's emotional, social, and educational development.

Education itself is categorized into three forms: informal education within the family, formal education in schools, and non-formal education in society. Each of these plays a complementary role in shaping individuals. The family provides the foundation, schools offer structured and systematic learning, and society provides broader social experiences through various educational activities such as courses, training, and community-based programs.

The role of society in education is equally important, as the educational process can only function effectively and sustainably when society actively participates in its development. Society acts as one of the main pillars supporting educational success. Without community involvement, education becomes unbalanced and less effective. The role of society in education is also legally recognized as part of its responsibility in ensuring educational success. The term "society" originates from the English word "society," derived from the Latin *socius*, meaning companion, while in Arabic it is associated with *syirk*, meaning association or interaction. Society refers to a group of individuals who live together, interact, and are bound by shared values, norms, and goals.

Society can generally be categorized into rural and urban communities, each with distinct characteristics. Rural society tends to be

traditional, closely related to agricultural life, and characterized by strong social bonds and mechanical solidarity, as described by Émile Durkheim. In contrast, urban society is more modern, open, dynamic, and characterized by organic solidarity based on industrial and professional interdependence. Despite these differences, both types of society play a crucial role in supporting education and shaping human development.

Society also possesses cultural values, norms, and traditions that influence educational processes. These values are integrated into a broader national cultural system that guides behavior and interaction within the educational environment. Education, as a social institution, is a collective responsibility that requires continuous interaction among all social components. According to John I. Goodlad (1984), society has high expectations of education, including the attainment of social status, meaningful social roles, and a better future life. In national development, society becomes a strong collective force that shapes educational outcomes and determines the quality of human resources.

From the perspective of Durkheim, a society that successfully builds social cohesion through its institutions will develop harmonious, integrated, and well-structured social relations with high levels of interaction and solidarity. This demonstrates that education and society are deeply interconnected in shaping social order and human development.

This concept is also reinforced in the Qur'an, Surah Al-Hujurat verse 13, which states that all humans are created from a single male and female and are made into nations and tribes so that they

may know one another. The verse emphasizes that the most noble among humans in the sight of Allah is the most pious. This teaches that differences in ethnicity, culture, and background are meant to encourage mutual understanding, not discrimination or hostility. In the context of sociology of education, this verse highlights the importance of social relations, tolerance, cooperation, respect for diversity, and harmonious living within society. Education, therefore, plays a vital role in instilling these values so that learners develop respect for differences and contribute positively to social harmony.

Sociology of Education

Sociology of education is a branch of sociology that studies the relationship between education and society. It views education as a social phenomenon that is influenced by various social, cultural, economic, and political factors. In this sense, education cannot be separated from the structure and dynamics of society in which it takes place. Sociology of education also examines social structures, social processes, and social interactions that occur within educational contexts. According to Maksum (2016:5), sociology of education is a branch of sociology applied to solve fundamental problems faced in the field of education.

In a broader sense, sociology of education emphasizes that education is not merely an individual process of acquiring knowledge, but a collective social process that shapes and is shaped by society. Through education, individuals are

socialized into the values, norms, and expectations of their community. At the same time, education also plays a role in reproducing or transforming social structures. Therefore, education functions both as a reflection of society and as an agent of social change. This dual role makes sociology of education an important field in understanding how societies maintain continuity while also adapting to change.

In general, sociology of education has two main objects of study, namely material and formal objects. The material object includes all aspects that become the focus of attention and research in sociology of education. It primarily concerns various issues related to society, human behavior, and educational institutions. Meanwhile, the formal object refers to the perspective used to analyze these issues from the viewpoint of sociology and educational science. It explains how social interactions between human behavior and educational institutions occur, as well as how these interactions influence the formation of behavior within society. Thus, the formal object emphasizes the sociological interpretation of educational phenomena and their impact on social life.

The study of sociology of education has several important objectives. According to Zainuddin Malik (as cited in Maksum, 2016:6–7), there are six main objectives in studying sociology of education. First, it aims to analyze the process of socialization, which explains how individuals learn and internalize social norms and values. Second, it seeks to analyze the position of education within society, including its role and function in social development. Third, it examines social interactions

within schools and between schools and the wider community, highlighting how these interactions shape educational outcomes. Fourth, it helps in solving social problems related to education by providing sociological insights. Fifth, it aims to analyze educational goals objectively, ensuring that education aligns with societal needs. Sixth, it studies social behavior and the principles needed to regulate and control it in order to maintain social order.

Furthermore, sociology of education also plays a significant role in addressing contemporary educational challenges. In modern society, rapid social change, technological development, globalization, and cultural shifts have created new complexities in the educational system. Through sociological analysis, educators and policymakers can better understand issues such as educational inequality, access to education, cultural diversity in classrooms, and the influence of media and technology on learners. This makes sociology of education not only a theoretical discipline but also a practical tool for improving educational policy and practice.

Through these perspectives, sociology of education plays an essential role in understanding how education functions within society, how it is influenced by social forces, and how it contributes to shaping human behavior and social structures.

Implications of Sociology of Education in Education

The implications of sociology of education in the field of education indicate that educational

programs must take into account various social factors such as social class, gender, ethnicity, and religion in order to become more inclusive, equitable, and effective. In addition, it is also important to consider how the education system influences society as a whole. Education itself is a process through which individuals acquire knowledge, skills, and essential values for life, and it can take place in various settings such as schools, universities, or through everyday life experiences.

Sociology, as a scientific discipline, studies human behavior within the context of society, including aspects such as social structure, social interaction, and social change. Sociology of education, as a branch of sociology, focuses specifically on the relationship between education and society, including educational systems, learning processes, and their impact on society. Socialization agents refer to institutions or groups that influence the formation of individual personality and behavior, including family, schools, peers, mass media, and religion. The educational system itself includes various components such as curriculum design and teaching methods, which together shape learning experiences and outcomes.

The impact of education on society involves several important aspects, such as social mobility, educational equality, and unemployment. Education also plays a vital role in shaping social and cultural values that guide human behavior in society. However, educational problems still exist in various forms, including issues of access, quality, and inequality in education, as well as the role of education in addressing broader social problems such as poverty and social disparities.

Understanding sociology of education provides several important benefits. First, it helps us understand the role of education in shaping social values and norms that regulate human behavior in society. Second, it helps us understand how education can contribute to solving social problems such as poverty and discrimination. Third, it enables us to see how education influences both individual development and the overall development of society. Fourth, it helps us recognize how education can improve the quality of life and social well-being of communities.

Furthermore, sociology of education assists educators in understanding how social factors such as social class, gender, and ethnicity influence educational processes. By understanding these factors, educators can design more effective and inclusive teaching strategies as well as develop curricula that are more relevant to societal needs. This ultimately contributes to improving the quality of education and preparing students to face future challenges.

Education plays a crucial role in shaping a better society. Through an understanding of sociology of education, educators can develop learning strategies that help students become responsible citizens, increase students' social awareness, and enhance their critical thinking skills. Studying sociology of education is therefore essential, as it deepens our understanding of the relationship between education and society and how educational quality can be continuously improved for the benefit of all.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that sociology of education is a branch of sociology that examines social interactions within the context of education. It focuses on understanding how educational processes are shaped by and interact with various social factors in society. The development of sociology of education has significantly progressed since the early 20th century, establishing itself as a scientific discipline because it applies systematic and scientific methods in analyzing social interactions in educational settings.

The knowledge produced through sociology of education can be utilized to design more inclusive and effective educational programs, as well as to formulate more equitable and fair educational policies. The implications of sociology of education in the field of education emphasize the importance of considering social factors such as social class, gender, race, and religion when designing appropriate educational programs. Education itself is defined as a learning process through which individuals acquire knowledge, skills, and essential values for life.

Sociology, as a scientific discipline, studies human behavior in society, while sociology of education specifically focuses on the relationship between education and society. Socialization agents are institutions or groups that play a role in shaping individual personality and behavior. The educational system includes various aspects such as curriculum, teaching methods, and school organization. The impact of education on society

includes social mobility, educational equality, and unemployment, as well as its role in shaping social and cultural values. Educational problems also involve issues of access, quality, and inequality in education.

Understanding sociology of education provides significant benefits in life, as it helps in designing more effective and inclusive learning strategies and developing curricula that are more aligned with societal needs. The study of sociology of education is highly important because education plays a central role in shaping both individuals and society as a whole.

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