

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT- A BOOK REVIEW

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McGrath ,Simon, Education and Development,254pp,Routledge,2018.(Paperback),ISBN 978-1-138-21128-5,Price:2936

The book is organized into nine chapters detailing the interrelationships between Education and Development .The first chapter introduces the reader to the inter-disciplinarity of Education on one hand and to the debates and controversies that surround it .This chapter also sets the tone of the book by providing a lens to look at the function of Education as an Investment ,a Human Right , a tool to develop Critical thinking and Argumentation, As Development etc .It also outlines the changing nature and role of Education owing to various market forces of Liberalization, Globalization and Privatization .McGrath also throws light on understanding that wherever Education is a weak link development automatically takes a back seat. This chapter further also raises the crucial debate with respect to the purpose of Education i.e Is it a means to earn a living for survival? or Is it a journey of understanding Self ?or Is it a mere end to equip a human resource to steer the economy towards capitalistic gains .The second chapter details the history of Education and Development along with the complexities surrounding it. The chapter begins by outlining the education traditions before the dawn of the development era .It outlines the Chinese traditions in Education along-with the Islamic and Colonial Education especially focusing on Africa .This chapter further details the landmarks of the education landscape of the development era influenced by industrialization and modernization in particular with highlights of western education, socialist education as well as neo-liberal education in recent years. The chapter further throws light on the role and importance of UNESCO and World Bank with respect to it's emphasis on universalisation of primary education to ensure equitable growth. The third chapter of the book is particularly relevant in the contemporary landscape of education as it

brings to the table the value of education as an economic investment from the lens of rate of return. The chapter builds a case for looking at the rate of return of education in terms of the influence of the social, political and economic environment in which it is placed and also in terms of the quality of education which was seldom done in early writings. The chapter also provides an exhaustive critique of the human capital theory especially in the backdrop of the writings of the liberal and communist philosophers and educationists. The critique basically rests its case in the argument that the human capital theory has always furthered the cause of individual self interests over community interests and undermined the role of social capital at large. The fourth chapter goes into highlighting the role of Right of Education with respect to its impact on education and development and the achievement of the MDGs. The four important terms attached to the implementation of the Right to Education as given by Tomasevski include accessibility, availability, acceptability and adaptability which provide a comprehensive framework for pondering about these dimensions on account of implementation. The chapter also highlights the role of the states with respect to their apathy towards the citizens who are deprived of this right to free and compulsory education thus making it a more unequal society day by day. The next chapter contributes in shaping our thinking in understanding how education is inextricably linked to human development. The focus is on understanding the relationship of education in leading a healthy and happy life such that both the individual and the environment are in harmony. It indisputably builds a case for sustainable development through education as a medium. The author also lays stress on the use of vocational education and training as an effective vehicle for building the synergy between education and human development. The last three chapters focus on specific critical issues around Education and Human Development. The author, in the first chapter in this line addresses the issue of Gender and Education looking at how we are grappling with patriarchal mindsets all across the globe which do not favor the education of girls. The author goes at length to explain that Education should not be restricted to just increasing the access of education to Girls but should work towards gender equity and equality in all walks of life. It also takes into its purview the issue of education of boys. In the end it provides an exhaustive critique of how Gender and Development is often looked at lopsidedly in Education very conveniently. The next in the series a chapter on Education and/or as Violence wherein a strong account has been presented as to how armed conflict often targets, impacts and ruins places and people engaged in education. It also traces the history of how

education has been a site for racial and ethnic, sexual ,communal ,cultural and linguistic violence either overtly or covertly through the hidden curriculum .Education often has served as a classic example of reproducing the social, regional ,cultural and economic inequalities .The examples put forth are bound to make the readers think of the ways and means to decolonize Education .The last chapter establishes the link between education and sustainable development .It presents a comprehensive account of the ideas pertaining to the role of education and development in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by driving home the vision and mission of Education for Sustainable Development. The book comes to a closure by offering the readers the conclusion as to how important and complex it is to look at education and development from the interdisciplinary lens.

The key features of this book are that each chapter has clearly spelt out learning objectives, text boxes which highlight specific cases and examples, discussion questions at the end and an exhaustive list of references including websites and videos followed by the summary of the chapter presented in points. The author does not shy away from critiquing existing practices, policies and programmes in the context of Education and Development while keeping most of the commentary evidence based .The book is systematically organized in clear lucid language which makes it a delightful read. It is a must read for students, teachers, teacher-educators policy makers, curriculum developers, researchers and practitioners in the field of Education and Development.