

Meaning of Educational Planning

The term planning is the major guideline for development of any individual, institution, organisation and society in every respect. Planning is essential for development of every nation and according to which changes would have been brought in the social, political, economic, cultural and educational sphere in a systematic and orderly manner. Simply speaking planning means to think before acting, and to act according to facts, not, conjectures or speculation.

Today, educational planning is an absolute requirement. The complexities of modern technology and society have given rise to the need for planning in education. Increasing populations, man-power needs, ecology, decreasing natural resources and haphazard applications of scientific developments require educational planning. To meet these problems, educational planning becomes a necessity and planning competence becomes mandatory. It is unavoidable for bringing about a desirable change in the educational organizations for promoting the organizational health- its effectiveness and functional efficiency.

Definition of Educational Planning:

- ❖ **According to Hugman and Schwartz**, -“Planning selects among alternatives explores routes before travel begins and identifies possible or probable outcomes or action before the executive and his organisation committed to any.”
- ❖ **UNESCO(2010)** Published a Journal named *Educational Planning: Approaches, Challenges and International Frameworks, Module-1*, Said about Planning “Planning is the intellectual anticipation of possible future situation, The selection of the desirable situation to be achieved (objectives) and the determination relevant actions that need to be taken in order to reach these objectives at a reasonable cost”.
- ❖ **According to Beeby (1967)**, - “Educational planning is the exercise of foresight in determining the policy, priorities and cost of an education system having due regard to economic and political realities for the system's potential for growth and for the needs of the country and of the pupils serving the system”.
- ❖ **According to Coombs (1970)**, - “Educational planning is the application of rational, systematic analysis to the process of educational development with the aim of making education more effective in responding to the needs and goals of its students and society”.

Characteristics of Educational Planning:

The following viewpoints have been utilized by the experts to understand and explain the meaning and nature of planning.

1. **Forecasting**: Educational planning is describing or defining or determining events, conditions and needs of some future point in time. It implies forecasting or projections of important factors in education such as number and types of students and expansion of facilities needed for them.

2. **Interpretation:** Educational planning should also call for interpretation of the future's data and its translation into competencies or operational capabilities demanded to maintain effectiveness under the conditions anticipated.
3. **Goals and Objectives:** Educational planning is a means of generating relevant present and future goals and objectives for the organization.
4. **Decision-Making:** Educational planning is the preparation or pre-courses in the decision making process. It is to help determine the optimal decision or choice rendered. While educational administration is mostly decision-making, planning in education is only the other side of it.
5. **Operations Optimization:** Educational planning is operations optimization or performance improvement. It is for the enhancement of existing conditions rather than for those that exist in the uncertain future. It is to guide the actions of the operations. It must result in standard operating procedures, operations manuals, administrative guidelines or system and policies.
6. **Problem Prevention:** Educational planning is a kind of contingency anticipation or problem prevention. It should minimize the magnitude of an educational problem likely to be encountered at some future point in time. It should spell out the procedures to be followed if some crises or contingencies arise.
7. **Management Change:** Educational planning is a part of organization renewal. MBO, PERT and various other forecasting techniques are part of the process of educational planning. It provides a mechanism, a model or a tool for achieving specific objectives of an organization.