

ADVANTAGES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES

Abayomi T¹, Aslam Shahriar²

¹ University of Cape Town, South Africa

² Shiraz University, Iran

*Corresponding author: abayomi.t@uct.ac.za

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ABSTRACT

The United States, a country with one of the largest economies in the world, is also known for its quality education system. Of course, there are many advantages to the education system in America compared to the education system in other countries. The method used by the author in conducting this research was a descriptive qualitative method with a literature document review. The advantages of the education system in America are (1) Literacy Culture, Literacy education does not only occur in schools, but also involves the role of parents and communities. Literacy culture is instilled in American families through reading with children at home (2) Math skills, At the elementary and secondary school levels, the United States adopts an approach that focuses on a core curriculum that includes subjects such as math, science, English and the arts. In addition, learners are also given the freedom to choose additional subjects according to their interests and talents (3) Practical and Authentic Learning, US education is also known for emphasizing practical and authentic learning that incorporates real-life lessons and activities (4) Character Development Programs Not only is academic success important, US education also focuses on student character development. These character development programs aim to promote positive behavior, global awareness, tolerance towards others, and most importantly, kindness and empathy in students. (5) Flexible Education System, Educational flexibility is one of the advantages of the higher education system in the United States that benefits international students. The US education system is one of the most diverse in the world. With flexibility, students can experiment with different study programs within the first two years of college education.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the key to advancing human civilization. Without education, the world would not have produced the discoveries and innovations that are now the foundation for the development of civilization. That is why every country strives to provide and ensure access to education for all its citizens (Huelskamp, 1993).

The education system is one of the important aspects in the development of a country. In facing the increasingly advanced era of globalization, the

education system has a very vital role in preparing the younger generation to face future challenges and opportunities. Through the education system, individuals can acquire the knowledge, skills and values needed to develop and contribute to society.

Education is one of the important aspects for every human being, in order to create a competent and broad-minded generation. Each country has a different education system due to differences in policies in each country to regulate the education system in their respective countries, and choose

which system is more suitable to be applied. Thus, each country certainly has a unique education system, adapted to the geographical conditions, culture, and traditions of its people (Varenne, 2018).

Each country has its own education system that varies from country to country. This happens because each country has different cultural, social and economic conditions. Some countries are considered to have the best education systems because they graduate generations with a superior culture of thinking.

Indeed, each education system has its own strengths and challenges, reflecting the cultural, social and economic context of each country or society. Education itself has enormous significance for both individuals and society at large.

Education is the foundation for a nation's progress, and many countries have endeavored to develop excellent education systems to prepare future generations. In the midst of global competition, some countries have been consistently recognized as having the best education systems in the world (Nachtigal, 2019). The United States, a country with one of the largest economies in the world, is also known for its quality education system. Of course, there are many advantages of the American education system compared to education systems in other countries. This article aims to describe the advantages of the American education system.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The method used by the author in conducting this research was a descriptive qualitative method with a literature document review. Data collection was taken from sources such as literature, articles, books and other supporting websites, namely studies and podcasts obtained from video interviews on YouTube that have been directly involved in education in the United States. Then the data collected was then interpreted in writing and then the data was analyzed using descriptive methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The United States (US) is ranked as the country with the best education system in the world. There are many prestigious universities and a well-developed higher education system.

Some famous universities in the US include Harvard University, Stanford University and Yale University. These three campuses are considered to have a great opportunity to accept international students for education.

The United States is known for having the best education system in the world. This can be seen from the world's top schools and campuses such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, and Stanford University.

In general, the US school education system is divided into four stages. Starting from the Early Childhood Program (Nursery to Pre-K) ages 2-5, Elementary School (Grades 1 to 5) for ages 6-10, Middle School (Grades 6 to 8) for ages 11-14, and High School (Grades 9-12) for ages 15-18.

Certificates are awarded to students who graduate from Senior High School (Grade 12). From there, many students will then go on to college or university, referred to as higher education.

Why is the American Education System the Best? The US education system has set learning goals that are oriented towards the individual development of each student from an early age. Some of the things done in the system include:

a) Literacy Culture

Education plays an important role in shaping and improving the literacy culture of Americans by providing access to literacy education from an early age. In the American education system, literacy learning starts at an early age. It aims to introduce them to the importance of reading and writing and to build basic language skills (Lucas, 1998).

In the early stages of education, children are taught basic reading and writing, such as recognizing letters and numbers, saying words and spelling. Teachers use a variety of interactive and fun learning methods and strategies to get children interested and motivated to learn to read and write.

In addition, the important role of education in literacy culture is also seen in the provision of supporting facilities and resources. Every school in America is equipped with a library that provides a variety of reading and reference books for students. In addition, schools also have access to modern technology such as computers and the internet, which allows students to explore the wider world of literacy (Smith, 2006).

Literacy education does not only happen in schools but also involves the role of parents and communities. A culture of literacy is instilled in American families through

reading with children at home. Parents play an important role in introducing children to books and guiding them in reading and writing. In American society, literacy activities are often held at public libraries or community centers, such as children's stories, book discussion groups and writing workshops. Thus, education helps to extend the literacy culture beyond the school environment (Hughes etc, 2001).

There is much more that education can do to improve the literacy culture of Americans. One of them is to provide better accessibility to literacy education for the underprivileged. There are assistance programs such as mobile libraries or free literacy programs, which can be accessed by people who do not have the access or resources to buy books or get quality literacy education.

Education also has a role to play in helping learners to develop an interest and passion for reading. Through various extracurricular activities and programs, such as reading groups, writing clubs or literary contests, students can develop their literacy competencies in a more fun and engaging way. The role of education in creating a learning environment conducive to literacy in American society is crucial in achieving this goal.

Overall, education plays an important role in shaping the literacy culture in American society. Starting from the earliest levels of education, children are taught basic reading and writing skills. In addition, education also provides supporting facilities and

resources to support community literacy (Barber, 1993). The role of education in introducing literacy is not limited to the school environment but also involves the active role of parents and communities in shaping a strong literacy culture in America. Through better accessibility and a variety of extracurricular activities, education also encourages students' interest and enjoyment of reading. With all these efforts, the literacy culture in America will continue to grow and benefit the entire society.

b) Math Skills

It is important to note that the US education system is vast and covers all levels, from elementary school to post-graduate education. At each level, the education system offers exciting opportunities and challenges for students (Varenne, 2018).

At the primary and secondary school levels, the United States adopts an approach that focuses on a core curriculum that includes subjects such as math, science, English and the arts. In addition, learners are also given the freedom to choose additional subjects according to their interests and talents.

Furthermore, upon entering college, American students are given greater flexibility in choosing their course of study. One can find a wide variety of educational institutions that offer specific programs, ranging from technical skills to more abstract social sciences (Sher, 2019).

c) Practical and Authentic Learning

US education is also known for its emphasis on practical, authentic learning that combines real-life lessons and activities.

Programs like "Inspired Science" are designed by schools to engage all students through virtual field trips, videos, podcasts, texts, interactives and more. These programs can deepen students' understanding of lessons beyond mere facts and figures (Gordon, 2014).

The curriculum also allows students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired at each age and stage. These include important life skills such as leadership, collaboration, critical thinking, public speaking, data analysis and problem solving.

There is also an emphasis on authentic tasks, where students apply what they have learned to create products or solutions to real-life problems. This rigorous academic program is balanced with the teaching of art, music, and sports to develop students into well-rounded individuals.

d) Character Development Program

Not only is academic success important, US education also focuses on developing students' character. For example, the "Second Step" program offers a holistic approach to social-emotional learning (SEL) by providing a full range of SEL activities and objectives from kindergarten to high school. "Second Step" is closely aligned with the CASEL framework, which creates a foundation for implementing evidence-based SEL strategies in schools and communities. Through integrated lessons, discussions, and activities, students develop key skills under the five CASEL competencies: self-awareness, self-

management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness. This character development program aims to promote positive behavior, global awareness, tolerance towards others, and most importantly, kindness and empathy in students.

America, which is known as one of the most liberal countries, also has a behavioral education program and instills good moral values to students in schools. This education program is called Positive Behavior Support (PBS). This program is conducted to improve academic achievement, improve safety conditions in schools, reduce student behavioral problems and create a positive school culture. This program is a long-term program that takes approximately 3 to 5 years to get the expected results.

The implementation strategy of PBS in American schools begins with the formation of a special team responsible for the implementation of PBS in the school. Members include the principal, teacher representatives, education staff representatives and students. The first task of this team is to build a joint commitment of all school members to the implementation of the PBS program at school. After that, they collect data on discipline violations and undesirable behaviors that often occur at school. Then, they analyze the data (Zhao, 2009).

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e) Flexible Education System

According to the International Education Specialist website, US universities and colleges offer a myriad of courses and programs to choose from. Students have the freedom to choose not only the course content, but also the structure. At the undergraduate level, students have the freedom to take different courses before declaring a major at the end of the second year.

This helps to explore the student's subject interests and then decide without rushing. Similarly, for postgraduate studies, students can choose their own preferences and when

going forward for dissertation, can focus on the ideas they want to emphasize.

Educational flexibility is one of the advantages of the higher education system in the United States that benefits international students. The US education system is one of the most diverse in the world. With flexibility, students can experiment with different programs of study within the first two years of college education.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion, it can be concluded that the advantages of the American education system are (1) Literacy Culture. Literacy education does not only occur in schools, but also involves the role of parents and communities. Literacy culture is instilled in American families through reading with children at home (2) Math skills, At the primary and secondary school levels, the United States adopts an approach that focuses on a core curriculum that includes subjects such as math, science, English, and art. In addition, learners are also given the freedom to choose additional subjects according to their interests and talents (3) Practical and Authentic Learning, US education is also known for emphasizing practical and authentic learning that incorporates real-life lessons and activities. (4) Character Development Programs Not only concerned with academic success, US education also focuses on developing students' character. These character development programs aim to promote positive behavior, global awareness, tolerance towards others, and most importantly, kindness and empathy in students. (5) Flexible Education System, Educational flexibility is one of the advantages of the higher education system in the United States that benefits international students. The

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