

# **Social Transformation in Higher Education: Basic Foundations in Social Development**

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## **Abstract**

Education is one of the crucial foundations in the development of human life. One form of this development is social conditions that are constantly changing. Education through higher education can be a basis for social development. This research will be carried out to look at how tertiary institutions can influence the process of social development. This research will be carried out using a qualitative approach. The research data comes from the results of previous research or studies which still have relevance to the contents of this research. The results of this study then found that education has an essential role in improving the quality of human life, including improving social conditions in society, higher education as one of the educational institutions can play a role as a basic foundation in social development in the community.

**Keywords:** Education, Social Development, Higher Education.

## **Introduction**

Education is essential for people's lives. Because with the existence of education, an individual can actualize himself. According to Law no. 2 of 1989, "Education is a conscious effort to prepare students through guidance, learning, and training activities for their future roles" (Azorin, 2020).

Education promotes the development of human thought, hence elevating the level of living of its recipients. On occasion, as a result of its evolution, education has become a system. An education system that is systematically organized in accordance with Article 11 paragraph 1 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003 concerning the Law on the National Education System, which states that formal, non-formal, and informal education are the three

types of education used. These three educational streams are interdependent and necessary to effectuate societal changes (Yumashev et al., 2020).

Most contemporary societies see educational institutions as essential to attaining social objectives. Together with parents, the government has supplied the considerable education budget necessary for social advancement and nation-building in order to preserve traditional values in the form of noble principles mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the 1945 Constitution, namely teaching the nation's life. It is intended that education will cultivate a sense of reverence for God Almighty and increase political, economic, and social development in order to attain national development goals (Boeren, 2019).

The era's development has brought about changes in various aspects. The social part is the impact of changes that occur so quickly and easily observed. Social developments that occur not only lead to progress but can also lead to setbacks. This has happened since ancient times. There are times when the changes occur so quickly that it confuses the people who deal with them (Cheval et al., 2020). Every change in society raises the risk of social life or social uncertainty. The new (modern) social order emphasizes progressive rationalization in society, a society transforming, considering solidarity is no longer a priority but more individualistic or oriented towards considerations of profit or loss (Pietrocola et al., 2021).

Education is a fundamental matter for society's progress and welfare, especially in rural communities, education in rural areas needs to be carried out intensively by providing the widest possible opportunities for them. If you want to be associated with society's social context, education can be a way to reduce poverty. Intelligent children are future assets that can raise the standard of living for families (Fodor et al., 2021).

Education's purpose in social development is to enhance students' capacity for critical analysis, which contributes to the inculcation of new views and ideals regarding human thought processes. Modern educational practices have successfully produced a new generation with creative and critical thinking skills, an attitude that does not give up easily in the face of contemporary issues, and a willingness to substitute a more adaptable perspective in its place (Sauri et al., 2022). This method of thinking and attitude will break away from reliance on others' assistance. Thus students, apart from understanding changes in social life, can also be agents of change themselves (Hillier et al., 2020).

Through the brief explanation above, the researcher then intends to see how education through higher education can become an essential foundation for carrying out social development.

## **Literature Review**

### ***Education***

It is the process, method, or act of educating, as defined by the Indonesian dictionary, which explains that the word education is derived from the English word "education" and consists of the affix "pe" and the suffix "an." In the study of language, education is defined as the process by which a person or group of people acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to function effectively as adults. Conscious effort made by an adult to bring a child or adolescent to maturity through instruction and guidance (Saddhono et al., 2022).

According to Law Number 20 of 2003, "education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their

potential to have religious and spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed by himself, society, nation and state” (Riinawati, 2022).

In his work titled "Foundations of Education," George F. Kneller explains that education can be seen in either a broad and technical sense or in terms of outcomes and processes. Education is an action or experience that influences the growth or development of a person's mind, character, or physical capacities. Education, in this sense, continues (for life) (Daros, 2022).

Furthermore, Sanapiah Faisal said that there are three kinds of education:

- a. Formal education: Where education refers to school education with relatively fixed organizational and processing requirements, it is more traditional and bound by the formal legality of administration. Usually, education is long-term and regular (Zaucha & Kreiner, 2021).
- b. Non-formal education: Where this education is typically short-term, the program is specific and arises because of an urgent need. The requirements are more flexible in terms of social and classification as well as subject matter and training, compared to formal education, which is more flexible and short, this education includes courses, upgrading and training (Oyigbo et al., 2021).
- c. Informal education: Where education has occurred as a field of teaching and learning interactions, but from the results of experience, learning is not organized structurally there is no extension. Concrete examples include The educational process that occurs from learning from family functions, mass media, art or entertainment performances, and so on (Kuryan & Voronina, 2021).

Education is an effort to help people reach their full potential as human beings and as contributing members of society, using shared ethical and moral principles as a compass. Educating a child, then, is the act of shaping him or her in such a way that they flourish in any given setting (Hermino & Arifin, 2020).

### ***Higher Education***

Higher Education is a forum for the campus community. As an organization, higher education has a structure and rules for completing tasks, including the division of tasks between functional groups and residents in the same group, activity plans, and goals. Objectives are guided by principles and guide action plans. The structure and rules for completing tasks become the infrastructure for achieving goals and simultaneously reflect the principles (Neuwirth et al., 2021).

Higher education as a society cannot be separated from a large society which is its environment (universal understanding or expression) or which is its parent (paternalistic understanding or expression). In the case of Indonesia, where most of its citizens tend towards paternalism, the higher education community is a child of Indonesia's larger society (Chapman et al., 2021). The placement and adjustment of the campus community to the big Indonesian society takes place more formalistically (through well-intentioned rules, regulations, and laws) rather than ecologically. This fact affects the elaboration of principles into goals and then the elaboration of plans into main tasks (Haugh, 2021).

Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 22 of 1961 defines higher education as a scientific institution that organizes education and instruction above the secondary level and provides education and instruction based on Indonesian national culture and in a scientific manner. Higher education institutions in Indonesia can be polytechnics, colleges, academics, universities and institutes (Newman, 2022). Each type of higher education

institution usually offers several majors or study programs. Every prospective student who will enter a tertiary institution will be faced with selecting the study program or department he will enter. The choice of the study program for students is a moment that determines the future in every phase of life (Iglesias-Pradas et al., 2021).

The main functions of Higher Education are:

- a. Fostering the quality of results and performance of Higher Education so that they can make a real contribution to the ideological, political, economic, social and cultural developments in society. Higher Education periodically organizes self-evaluations involving all Basic Academic Units to carry out good-quality development. Self-evaluation should be considered the primary Higher Education management tool, because every decision must be able to refer to the self-evaluation results (Wilcox, 2021).
- b. Planning the development of Higher Education to face developments in society. The Strategic Plan spans a development time of 10 years, so universities should be able to make it. From the Strategic Plan, the Five-Year Operational Plan and the Annual Operational Plan can be explained, and the latter is linked to the Coordinating Program Memorandum of the Directorate General of Higher Education, in the sense that parts of the Annual Operational Plan that require a development budget, can be submitted as a Project Entry List (Fatima et al., 2020).
- c. Strive for the availability of resources to carry out functional tasks and development plans of Higher Education. Resources are sought from the Central Authority and other parties through cooperation, research contracts, special education and training provision, donations, and others (Jung et al., 2021).
- d. Organize a Higher Education management pattern based on the Higher Education System Management Paradigm, with the main goal of creating a conducive academic atmosphere for implementing higher education functional activities (wang & Soo-Jin, 2021).

### ***Social Transformation***

Soemardjan argues that social development and cultural change have the same aspects, namely, both are concerned with a way of accepting new practices or an improvement in the way society meets its needs. Social development is all changes that occur in a society that affect the social system. This definition emphasizes community institutions as a collection of human groups where changes affect other societal structures (Kusumastuti et al., 2022).

William F. Ogburn tries to provide an understanding of social development. The scope of social development includes both material and immaterial cultural elements. The emphasis is on the significant influence of material cultural factors on immaterial aspects. Social development is defined as changes in society's structure and function (Laato et al., 2022).

In other words, social development is any change in social institutions. The values, habits, and perspectives of the various social subsets that make up a society are all susceptible to change as a result of institutional reforms (Ives & Kidwell, 2019).

Forms of social development are:

### ***Slow Social development***

Evolution describes the gradual progress of social structures through a series of little changes over time. This change in evolution has characteristics that make it appear as though it did not include civilization, progressed slowly, and did not lead to any new forms of life (Barrett et al., 2019).

### ***Rapid Social development***

Rapid social changes are known as revolutions. Not only does it happen suddenly, but it also affects people's lives and the institutions in which they participate, frequently ending in the social and political economy's disintegration (Paterson, 2020).

### ***Small Social developments***

Small-scale alterations to the social order occur in spheres that are too remote from the core of society to have any appreciable effect on people's daily lives or the institutions that sustain them (Breuer & Pierson, 2021).

### ***Big Social development***

Significant social development is a change that can majorly impact various aspects of life and cause changes in social institutions, as happened in societies undergoing industrialization modernization (Surya et al., 2020).

### ***Planned Social development***

Planned social development or “engineering” social engineering is a change that is predicted or planned by the parties who will make changes in society (agent of change) (Kumar et al., 2021).

### ***Unplanned Social development***

Unplanned (unwanted) social development is a change that occurs without community planning or desire and is subject to community supervision. Changes that are planned/unwanted may occur, but they are anticipated and accepted by the community, such as the reforms in Indonesia (Escobar-Alegria et al., 2019).

According to Soekanto, a process of change regarding the structure and function of social systems occurs in at least three stages:

- a. Invention: a process in which the change is realized from within the community itself created by the community, which then changes appear.
- b. Diffusion: where ideas or ideas obtained from outside are then communicated within a society.
- c. Consequences: namely, the results of the adoption of these changes. A change that occurs either from factors originating from the community itself or outside the community (effects of new technology) does not always produce the same results (Nurdin & Saufa, 2020).

## **Method**

This research will be carried out using a descriptive qualitative approach. This research method is a literature study that uses secondary data derived from different results of previous studies or studies that still have relevance to the content of this study. Research data that researchers have successfully collected will be processed so that later the results of this research can be found.

## **Result and Discussion**

### ***The Role of Education in Social Development***

The role of education in social development in Indonesian society, namely:

***Critical and innovative thinking.***

Improving one's capacity for critical analysis through study of social evolution can lead to the adoption of novel attitudes of the nature of the human mind. Education will instill in people a set of values, most notably an openness to and acceptance of new ideas and perspectives, including scientific methods of inquiry. Humans learn via education to be more forward-thinking and logical in their pursuit of a better, more progressive future (Sauri et al., 2022).

An educated populace is one that is more likely to experiment with cultural innovation in order to keep up with modern life. Aligning with the goals of national education as outlined in the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003, education plays a central role in fostering the development of citizens who are democratically responsible, fear God Almighty, have a noble character, are physically and mentally fit, and are able to think critically and creatively.

Encourage the attitude of appreciating one's work.

Awards, awards for services, promotion awards, and so on encourage people to continue to excel through their new works, to bring about changes in their society. This positive attitude is an indication that the community wants to progress through the new creations of its members, which are expected to bring change and goodness to the lives of its people.

***An open society coating system.***

All members of a community in which there is no barrier to advancement in one's social standing are said to live in a stratification system that is "open," because everyone there has equal chances of moving up the social ladder (Midtbøen & Nadim, 2022).

According to Sugihartono, education is "the process of altering the attitudes and conduct of an individual or a group of individuals toward more mature human beings through teaching and training efforts," and this is how education contributes to human maturation. Generally speaking, a person's employment prospects improve in proportion to his or her level of schooling.

***Understanding of the existence of a heterogeneous society.***

Conflicts are more likely to happen in a society comprised of social groups of diverse cultural backgrounds, races, beliefs, and so on; as a result, shocks frequently arise, encouraging changes in people's lives. Transnational communities in Indonesia, hailing from different highly populated regions, are forced to congregate in the same geographical region in order to function.

Because they come from different areas, they tend to behave following their respective culture of origin, so there is often a mismatch between them because they adhere to different values and norms, so friction/conflict arises. Departing from this, education is expected to have a vital role in improving the nation's morale. This is consistent with Sudjana's view that education is an attempt to help people reach their full potential as human beings, both as individuals and as contributing members of society, with a strong sense of social and moral responsibility. In other words, the goal of education is to provide pupils with the knowledge and abilities they'll need to successfully adapt to their surroundings.

***Orientation to the future.***

People who can see what's to come (those with a defined purpose and set of personal objectives) will be motivated to take action. The community can develop into a society that is

dynamic, active, and inventive, i.e., a society that is constantly attempting to make discoveries that are anticipated to be able to transform the lives of its people toward the achievement of the new society it strives to create. In this future environment, therefore, the vision of education should emerge from the realization that we cannot wait for anything from the future.

### ***Higher Education as a Means of Social Development***

Education is universal, and everyone in this world will always receive education from the environment. In this case, a newborn child needs the help of other people or people who are more powerful, especially the family, as the first social group he knows so that he can grow up and be responsible for his development. For this reason, education can be interpreted as a forum for developing human qualities and all knowledge, of course, is an important agent that participates in determining the social developments that occur in society because social development refers to the quality of society which depends on the personal qualities of its members. Therefore, educational institutions such as universities play a crucial part in the social evolution that leads to improvements in critical analysis abilities, which teach new views and ideals regarding human ways of thinking. In order to free themselves from dependency and the habit of seeking refuge in others, the modern era's educational system has been successful in producing a new generation with creative and critical thinking abilities, an attitude that does not give up easily in existing situations, and is replaced by an attitude that is adaptable to change.

Higher education is an institution that aims to connect and preserve a society's cultural history in the wake of social growth. The process of social growth is frequently chaotic and insufficient, despite the fact that the elements undergoing change are interdependent, resulting in cultural disparity. Rapid technological advancements will have far-reaching effects on all social institutions, therefore the growth of poverty, crime, and other social ills cannot be avoided. In order to anticipate the community's readiness to deal with change, tertiary institutions must be able to examine the most pressing values, knowledge, and technology requirements. Change is the result of the adaptations of individuals. Existence of an education system is an additional aspect that fosters the progression of the change process (Tsiligiris & Hill, 2021).

The problem with change depends on how accepting the attitude is. And shifting attitudes is an educational concern since attitudes are changed through educational institutions such as universities, and if coupled with change, it can indicate a shift in the societal ideals.

Forms of change that occur in society, namely:

- a. Gradual shift (evolution). This change is static because humans are mainly concerned with their personal demands, but the changes that do occur are in accordance with the prevailing social conditions.
- b. Rapid shifts (revolution). This transformation is dynamic, with people adapting rapidly to new innovations.
- c. Modifications with a negligible impact. A substantial change is a change whose nature can have a big impact on society, such as conflicts that result in changes in the community environment that feel to adjust to existing conditions or situations, stratification changes, and individualism. In the meanwhile, tiny changes do not significantly impact the life of community groups, such as changes in clothing styles.
- d. Planned changes. Change is a result of previous planning thinkers or agents of social development.

Social development is broadly described as change or development in a favorable or negative way. There are two facets to the notion of social development: social development as regression and social development as progress. Technical advancements influence an individual's motivation, and the usage of technological inventions, the employment of these technologies alters opinions and judgments through a new way of life. When persons are engaged in the difficulties they encounter and unable to adopt new attitudes or make decisions, social growth declines. This condition results in frustration and indifference. According to what has been discussed thus far, there is a shift in society whose basic foundation is education, which might affect a person's situation, particularly involvement in society (Shi & Yang et al., 2022).

### ***The Importance of Higher Education in Forming One's Social Personality***

Higher education is a formal educational institution that grows and develops in society, intending to provide educational services to the younger generation of the nation and citizens of Indonesia, for this reason, formal education also has an essential role in shaping one's character or personality. Education is the purposeful attempt to prepare students for their future roles as individuals and as agents of social change through mentoring, teaching, and training activities (Shaturaev, 2021).

Thus, formal education is essential in the change process for everyone who is part of society to realize that formal education is crucial in shaping one's personality. This is as stipulated in the Law on the National Education System Number 20 of 2003 Chapter V article 12 (paragraph 1) that: "everyone has the right to receive educational services according to their talents, interests and abilities" and Article 13 (paragraphs 1 and 2) says "the education pathway consists of formal, non-formal and informal education that complements and enriches each other and is carried out in an open system through face-to-face and distance".

In the Law on the National Education System Number 20 of 2003, Chapter I Article 1 (paragraph 1), it says that "Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious, spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed by himself, society, nation and state".

In this way, the meaning of education is clear to a person so that what is aspired to will be realized, and a person can develop his abilities following what has been obtained through education. A person's formal education will guarantee the success of a person's or life as long as the knowledge we gain is applied to society following the disciplines we have based on what is needed by the community, for example, opening our horizons to think about new things that will affect people's lives towards progress (López-Íñiguez & Bennett, 2021).

## **Conclusion**

Higher education, as one of the educational institutions, has a reasonably high role in creating social development. Through education, humans can develop their potential in social life. This will then increase human resources. Good human resources can make a good society too. This can then lead to improved social conditions in the community. In the process, higher education institutions as educational institutions are also able to bridge and maintain cultural heritage in social development. Through these tertiary institutions, social development in society can transform and advance in a more positive direction.

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