

The role of social institutions in society



Education is an important social that passes on the values of a society in several ways. Education partly determines what is considered worth knowing in any given society. Formal education sends many implied and explicit messages about the value of knowledge, the importance of one group over another and how knowledge should be best applied towards solving problems or advancing the society. Educational attainment is one of the great dividing mechanisms in most societies. Those with access to educational institutions be they secular or religious, are often held in esteem by those that have not been able to participate in the educational process. In some societies, however, the educated are viewed with mistrust. Regardless of the view others have of education and educated individuals, it cannot be denied that formal education influences values in a society relative to the importance of material culture, the acceptance of unfamiliar or opposing values from other cultures and the importance of self reflection. Formal education is often the mechanism where the rules concerning social behavior and expression is taught in a society. An interesting aspect of education and social transmission of values that could be tested would be the ability and willingness of people to work cooperatively in a group to accomplish an unfamiliar task. The experiment could be designed so that groups of individuals would be paired with other individuals with similar educational experiences and level of attainment. Measurements could be made to see if there were different levels of cooperation between groups of different educational attainment levels. The scientific method starts off with a scientific question that needs answered. A hypothesis is formed that can be tested. An experiment is devised that will isolate the variables the scientist hopes to study. As the experiment is conducted, data is compiled. This data

<https://assignbuster.com/the-role-of-social-institutions-in-society-essay-samples/>

is then analyzed so that something new can be learned from the experiment. The analysis should lead to a conclusion that either supports or refutes the hypothesis.