

THE PERSPECTIVE OF STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM THEORY OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

By Farida Hanum

Abstract

The fast change of the society due to the acculturation and innovations process influences the society's life style diversities such in education field. Some of the societies believe that educational function can increase their social status and welfare, some others don't.

To discuss whether a school is functional or dysfunctional, can be explained by some structural functionalism, for example, Talcott Parsons and Robert K. Merton. Talcott Parsons is more concern in the main role of school in the society. He said that school is the most important elements for children's socialization activities. The main function of school are: (1) Lead the students from the narrow orientation (particularity) to the general orientation (universalism) and from the selection allocation (deferential) to the adult roles in the society which are given a different reward, (2) Lead the student from a ascription to the prestige, (3) The means of selection and allocation, (4) The means of the opportunity equalization process.

Robert K. Merton believes that an educational institution is indeed functional for some groups of society and it is in functional for others. If an individual think that education is beneficial for him/her, it means that the school is functional, on the opposite, it is dysfunctional. Furthermore, Robert explains that there are manifest functions of school, which is a real and a latent function called hidden curriculum.