

# MODULE 1

## 1.2 – NON FORMAL EDUCATION (PART 2)

Hey Vidjaya, so what is non-formal education?

Non-formal education can be defined as planned and structured educational practices but outside of the formal system of education, such as a school. So it has specific learning objectives which aim to improving a range of skills and competences that respond though to the needs of the participants.

So would be like....when i did this workshop with a local NGO on responsible citizenship?

Exactly! and it is also what happens when you take short courses to learn something specific, or a book club, or drama classes. So it is about learning, but outside of the school system, and it's accessible to anyone, all ages and all backgrounds, because it uses this so-called non-formal methodologies.

So now, let's have a look at the main characteristics of non-formal education.

There are 6 main characteristics. (1) The first one, is that non-formal education is voluntary because the participants choose to join a course or activities, and are not obliged to do so like for example the obligation to go to primary or secondary school; (2) Secondly, non-formal education is participatory and learner-oriented. That means that it focuses on the learners' needs, and the learning content is flexible. This means that there is no pre-defined curriculum but it can be adapted to the needs and interests of students.

(3) Thirdly, non-formal education uses non-formal methods which focus on "learning by doing" in which the learning happens through practice: For example, in performing activities such as role-play, collaborative learning or practical activities, that are different from more "traditional" methods that are, for example, focusing on grammar or literature and in which the teacher is telling the students exactly what they should know. (4) Fourthly, non-formal education encourages collaboration and peer-learning, instead of passively learning from the teacher. (5) Fifth, its qualifications are usually not recognized by the relevant educational authorities. So for example, you will not get a degree or a diploma but sometimes you will get a certificate of attendance. (6) Sixthly, the learner facilitator can be professional or a non-professional.

So these were the 6 characteristics of non-formal education. this is very different from formal education or inform education. Mutindi could you maybe explain a little bit more about what formal and informal education is?

Formal education is what we know as mandatory education, such as the school system, university and colleges. It also includes different level exams to qualify one to move from one level to another and qualifying certificates, diplomas and degrees.

Non-formal education is also different from informal education, which is the lifelong process whereby people acquire skills and knowledge from daily experiences and the environment they live in. It is non-structured and often non-intentional and includes everything that you have learned from your family, your neighbors, your friends, and the market place. A great example is when you learned a language, just by listening and speaking it as a child, or when you learned a game just by playing it.

So, we have been talking a little bit now about non-formal education, and how it differs from formal and informal education. But according to you, why is this valuable and useful?

As a language teacher, I get to implement non-formal methodologies into explaining complex grammatical concepts into practical examples that relate to the reality of my students.

I can totally confirm that. For me, as a teacher, it gives me the possibility to have a relationship with the participants, it is fun, and it focuses on practice and listening to the participants, it becomes this interactive and shared learning experience. And this makes it so suitable for different ages and backgrounds, because we can all learn from each other!

Exactly! Non-formal education, though it will not give you formal recognition but is indispensable in everyday life and can teach you skills you need, in a more interactive, fun and active- instead of passive way.

Do you want to know more about non-formal education and non-formal activities? You can find the extra materials underneath this video. In the next video, we will look into the link between non-formal education and language learning and teaching.