

# The Relevance of Ivan Illich's Concept of Home Schooling

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## ABSTRACT

As advances in science and technology lead to development over time, they also bring about stagnation in social progress. Just as education without society is unrealistic, society without education is the main obstacle to social progress. The development of science and technology has accelerated and created an explosion of information, knowledge and aspiration in a populous society. The pattern and pace of business has also varied from country to country. Just as rapid progress has led the human species towards progress, some man-made evil deeds are destroying the human species day by day. Illich attracted public attention with his book 'Deschooling society'. Deschooling is a subject that is based on the thinking of Ivan Illich. Advancements in technology, the proliferation of online resources, and the growth of homeschooling networks have expanded opportunities for families to engage in homeschooling and collaborate with like-minded peers. The relevance of Ivan Illich's concept of homeschooling raises important questions about education policy and practice. This study covers all aspects of the relevance of his concept of homeschooling.

**Keywords:** Decentralized, Oppressive, Currency Centric, Pedagogy, Home Schooling, Learner Centred, Attitude, Handi Craft

## OBJECTIVES:

1. The main objectives for this research paper on the relevance of Ivan Illich's concept of homeschooling are-
  2. -to investigate the historical background and philosophical underpinnings of Ivan Illich's concept of homeschooling'
  3. -to assess the extent to which Illich's ideas on de-schooling and self-directed education along with modern homeschooling practices, considering factors such as curriculum design, parental involvement, and educational outcomes.
  4. -to investigate the socioeconomic implications of homeschooling in light of Illich's vision of egalitarian access to education, examining issues such as equity, privilege, and the democratization of learning opportunities.
  5. -to analyze the role of technology in facilitating homeschooling practices, considering how digital resources and online communities both align with and diverge from Illich's emphasis on decentralized, peer-to-peer learning networks.
- to develop evidence-based policy recommendations for educators, policymakers, and parents based on insights gained from Illich's concept of homeschooling,

## INTRODUCTION

Ivan Illich was born on 4 September 1926 in Vienna, Austria. He began his education in 1930 at a religious institution. He began his pre-university studies at the University of Florence, Italy. There he studied histology and crystallography, then went on to study theology and philosophy at the Gregorian University in Rome in 1943-46, and finally received his doctorate in history from the University of Salzburg in the year 1951.

He said that Schools are an exclusive institution. Schools provide us with instructional education. School innovation is at the heart of meeting educational demands. Through schools, we learn values that focus on school attendance, the value of education increases as the number of students increases, and eventually such values are measured and factualized by grades and certificates. No educational process can meet the needs. Learning is human action. Most learning is not the result of instruction. It is the result of experience gained by engaging in meaningful work without any steps.

All interested learners should be educated. One by one Ellis pointed out that a good education system has three main objectives. For example:

- Give opportunities to those who have sufficient resources at any time in their lives and who want to learn.
- Empower those who want to share what they know and have others learn from them.
- Facilitate those who want to present an issue to the public.

Schools are the root of social evil and should be avoided. Its monopoly on education should be abolished. Schools embezzle enough money, people and materials for education, and discourage other institutions from making assumptions about educational activities. Education to school is compulsory. Therefore, you should go to school to acquire school education.

Schools have planned processes that prepare people for the planned world. Its main tool is to trap people in human trenches. Schools want to prepare everyone to participate in the games of the world. In fact, the school is the advertising agency that tries to convince people that society can meet their needs. School education is age-based, teacher-involved processes emphasize full-time attendance according to the prescribed curriculum. Such a system actually makes students dependent on others instead of making them self-reliant poets.

Inequality and inadequacy of schools creates conflict between the rich and the poor. Even inequality and inadequacy create confusion between rich and poor countries. The destructive attraction of schools is as harmful as the destructive acquisition of weapons, but the consequences are slowly becoming apparent. Equality in schools is not possible because of positional value. Equality cannot be established because this contradiction has been going on since the beginning. Therefore, it must be eliminated in order to reach consensus. Therefore, to eliminate the inequality between economics, education and politics, society must be deschooled. Only on this basis will the order and stability of the present world be maintained. Today, the opinions of the rich are of special importance because the rich have many opportunities in their lives. Poor children are deprived of many of the educational opportunities that middle-class children enjoy. Therefore, poor students fall behind and have to take advantage of schools or education. These things apply to both rich and poor countries.

## ILLICH'S CONCEPT OF DESCHOOLING:-

In 1971, Illich attracted public attention with his book 'Deschooling society' Deschooling is a subject that is based on the thinking of Ivan Illich. His approach emphasized the nominally controlled teaching of

existing institutions based on the natural curiosity of free poet students from government influence. According to this method, children are kept away from school and taught at home. The longer a child spends in school, the more valuable time he will waste. After being placed out of school or out of school, children should be provided with homeschooling or agricultural education. Create, build and engineer - Unschooled home school children are given many educational opportunities like drawing, handicrafts, pottery, story writing, storytelling, going to warehouses and making things.

Dynamic activities - Children's own physical activities - Children should do jumping, swimming, walking around the neighbourhood, playing, catching games etc. to improve their physical activities. A gym should also be nearby. In addition, competitive and non-competitive activities should be arranged according to their needs.

Volunteers should choose a place of interest and let the child volunteer there. Children are sometimes asked to work with other homeschoolers to do things like pet animals at local animal shelters or volunteer to help a social organization. Documentaries, documentaries, etc. are many entertainment. Topics that are less publicized should be shown to children. They include The History channel, NOVA, PBS and other programs. This way you can easily learn about their Black Hole, Earthquakes and many other topics.

Use of the Internet - Share websites on interested beliefs to increase the knowledge of homeschool children without schools. When they are of appropriate age, they should be allowed to explore leading content. Links to articles, videos, etc. should be shared. Online games, educational media, etc. should be allowed to be viewed. They should also be allowed to discuss internet chats and responsibilities. Provide opportunities to establish relationships with relatives and important people. Out-of-school opportunities are given to spend time with grandparents, other relatives and close friends and family. Such kebabs will enable them to build high quality social relationships through various interrelationships. However, relatives who do not support the school may be bothered by such an arrangement. They should be explained the importance of such schools in such circumstances. Don't bother them. Growing up together and being housekeepers - School children are away from home for 8-10 hours so they don't have time to sacrifice anything special for the home. However, children in school can gain direct experience in various aspects of preparing food together, shopping together, packing together, eating together, etc. Home schools can provide life skills education. Such arrangements allow them to practice their creativity and initiatives by engaging with the environment.

### **Methodology:**

The methodology of this paper entitled "The Relevance of Ivan Illich's Concept of Home Schooling," is analytical and descriptive. The sources of data in this paper is secondary data. All these data are collected from different books, articles, newspapers, journals, magazine, web search etc.

### **Review of related literature:**

Research studies have shown that homeschooled students often outperform their peers academically. Studies by Ray (2009) and Rudner (1999) found that homeschoolers typically score above average on standardized tests and demonstrate strong social and emotional development. These findings support Illich's belief in the potential of non-institutionalized education.

Besides these studies following researchers have conducted various studies on Illich's Deschooling or Homeschooling system as stated follows -

Gatto, John Taylor. "Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling." New Society Publishers, 2002. Kozol, Jonathan. "Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools." Crown, 1991. Gray, Peter. "Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier,

*More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life.*" Basic Books, 2015. Apple, Michael W. *Official Knowledge: Democratic Education in a Conservative Age.*" Routledge, 2000. Ray, Brian D. *Home Educated and Now Adults: Their Community and Civic Involvement, Views About Homeschooling, and Other Traits.*" National Home Education Research Institute, 2004. Smith, Christian. *Homeschooling: A Comprehensive Survey of the Research.*" Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. Murphy, Joseph. *Classical Education and the Homeschool Movement.*" The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, 2008. Van Galen, Jane A., and Mary Anne Pitman. *Homeschooling and the Public Schools: What Some Families Choose and Why.*" Corwin Press, 1991.

In these studies they reveals that institutionalized education perpetuates dependency and stifles individual autonomy. The principles of homeschooling, which prioritize personalized, flexible learning experiences tailored to the needs of individual learners. Homeschooling empowers parents to take control of their children's education, allowing for greater flexibility in curriculum design and teaching methods. Illich's vision of self-directed learning, where individuals pursue knowledge based on their interests and passions, finds expression in homeschooling environments characterized by student-led exploration and discovery. Homeschooling represents a rejection of the traditional schooling model, providing an alternative that prioritizes individualized instruction, critical thinking, and holistic development over standardized curricula and testing. Homeschooling communities often embody this vision, fostering collaborative learning environments through co-ops, enrichment programs, and social gatherings where families share resources and support one another. While homeschooling continues to gain popularity, it faces challenges such as regulatory barriers, social stigma, and concerns about academic rigor and socialization. However, advancements in technology, the proliferation of online resources, and the growth of homeschooling networks have expanded opportunities for families to engage in homeschooling and collaborate with like-minded peers. The relevance of Ivan Illich's concept of homeschooling raises important questions about education policy and practice. Policymakers must consider ways to support and regulate homeschooling while safeguarding parental autonomy and educational quality. Collaboration between homeschooling advocates, policymakers, and educators can foster dialogue and innovation to enhance educational opportunities for all children.

## **RELEVANCE OF IVAN ILLIS'S CONCEPT OF HOME SCHOOLING**

Illich's concept of "Deschooling society" challenged traditional notions of schooling and advocated for more self-directed learning and community-based education. While he didn't directly advocate for homeschooling as it's often practiced today, his critique of institutionalized education and promotion of learning outside of formal schooling have certainly contributed to discussions about alternative educational models, including homeschooling.

In recent decades, home schooling has experienced significant growth globally. Researchers have explored various aspects of homeschooling, including academic achievement, socialization, and parental motivations. Illich's concept of Deschooling aligns with contemporary Homeschooling philosophies, emphasizing the importance of autonomy and personalized learning experiences. Illich's critique of traditional education systems as oppressive and hierarchical continues to be relevant in contemporary discussions on education reform. Scholars have highlighted the limitations of one-size-fits-all approaches to education and advocated for more flexible and inclusive learning environments, echoing Illich's call for Deschooling society.

By examining these various aspects of homeschooling in relation to Ivan Illich's concept of Deschooling society, researchers can gain insights into the relevance and potential implications of Homeschooling as an alternative educational model.

As a result, the attack of man-made viruses like the coronavirus pandemic has not only killed millions of people but also caused huge damage to all aspects of development around the world. It has hampered the intellectual development of students especially in the path of building human capital. The indefinite closure of educational institutions prevented students from going directly to educational institutions, disrupted the direct enlightenment process between teachers and students, and left no room for social interaction between students. The majority of students are not taking advantage of the online teaching methods. The acquisition of knowledge has become accessible only to the rich. There is a lack of balance in the acquisition and distribution of knowledge in poor and densely populated areas, in remote areas. Therefore, the students are trapped at home. The home has become the school or school, college and university for many students, teachers have become like the gurus of the ancient Indian education system, and interested students have become accustomed to acquiring knowledge like Ekalavya. For the majority of students, parents, siblings or other family members have to play the role of teachers. In such a juncture, the phrase 'Home is the best school and Mother is the best Teacher' has proved true. Many students are now forced to study at home. Therefore, Ivan Illich's de-schooling system is relevant.

His approach emphasizes freeing the prevailing institutional sense from government influence and providing teaching in a nominally controlled manner based on the natural curiosity of the students. According to this method, children are taken away from school and taught at home like in school. The longer a child spends in school, the more valuable time he will waste. After being placed out of school or out of school, children shall be provided with home schooling or home education. The aspects to be considered in setting up homeschooling are: Explaining the importance of non-school or schoollessness, providing simple curriculum or formal education, giving freedom to explore the world and for that Facebook, homeschool e-mail Identify, create, build and engineer such students through lists, or commercial homeschool organizations, etc. – Unschooled homeschool children are given many educational opportunities in drawing, handicrafts, pottery, storytelling, going to warehouses and making things. Return to nature-children should go to natural areas near home. Go on a picnic, carry a camera, binoculars, and sketchbooks. The child must be connected to the outside world at all times. Bring a field guide to learn about wildlife. When doing so, list various birds, insects, plants, etc. in a notebook. - Active activities - Children should jump, swim, walk around the neighbourhood, play games, catch games etc. to improve their physical activities. A gym should also be nearby. In addition, competitive and non-competitive activities should be arranged according to the interests and age of the child.

Children should be provided with access to computer networks, textbooks and audio textbooks to learn about government documents by visiting libraries. Read, read, read During this time, i.e. out of school, children should be allowed to read aloud. The child should be allowed to read aloud wherever he reads in bed or in a chair. This is the best time to study patterns.

Volunteers should choose a place of interest and let the child volunteer there. Children are sometimes asked to work with other homeschoolers to pet animals at local animal shelters or volunteer to help a social organization.

Many interesting subjects are rarely broadcast and should be allowed to be watched by children. The History Chanel, NOVA, PBS and other programs are the main ones. In this way, they can easily learn about black holes, earthquakes, etc.

Use of the Internet - Share websites on beliefs with out-of-school homeschool children who are interested in knowledge and intelligence. When they are of appropriate age, they should be allowed to explore interesting topics. Links to articles, videos, etc. should be shared. Online games, educational media, etc. should be allowed to be viewed. Also internet chat and responsibility. Let them discuss the issue.

Provide opportunities to establish relationships with relatives and important people. School absences are given as an opportunity to spend time with grandparents, other relatives and close friends and family. In doing so, they will be able to build high quality social relationships through various interrelationships. However, relatives who do not support non-schools may be bothered by such arrangements and should be explained the importance of such schools in such circumstances. Don't bother them.

Children who attend schools where they are raised and housekeepers are away from home for 8-10 hours and do not have time to sacrifice much for the sake of the home. However, children who are not in school can gain firsthand experience in various aspects of cooking together, shopping, cooking together, eating together, etc. Home schools can provide life skills education. Such arrangements can allow them to practice their creativity and initiatives by engaging with the environment.

Homeschooling is an environment in which a child's education is provided at home under the guidance of his parents instead of enrolling in school. Such schools can range from kindergarten to higher schools for home education. Such schools give children complete freedom. It does not contain the rules of public schools. There is no specially prepared curriculum. Such schools do not have to follow traditional schools. He criticized the existing education system and said that it was not possible to provide universal education through schools. Therefore, it is only possible to develop an alternative education system like the current schools. Teachers also have no new attitude towards students. There is no effort to apply any new learning technologies to provide universal education. Institutionalization The education system tends to institutionalize society as well. Therefore, the remedy for such systems is to build a de-institutionalized society through de-institutionalized education.

He did not advocate a publicly funded school system. He believes that opposing the establishment of schools does not mean free commercialization of the education system. A schoolless society is an alternative to the existing education system. So Ellis said, "We can deestablish School or we can deschool 'culture' - the majority of poor students who know what school has done for them. They think school is an urgent process. So they are confused about teaching and learning in school. His According to him, schools give jobs instead of values. Therefore, instead of the existing currency-centric education system, he advocates a school-free education system where even poor students will not be deprived of education. He said if schools cannot bring happiness to children, then going to school is a waste of time. Schools should actually be a source of learning. If the school curriculum fails in this regard

Therefore, it should be changed in relation to the needs of the present era. School neglect should be eradicated by redesigning and implementing new curricula.

Ellis strongly criticized the existing education system and advocated a new alternative education system from his own perspective. He emphasized on deschooling so that education could be universalized. A deeper review of his entire educational thinking shows that:

The main goal of Ellis' Deschooling system was to improve the education system and create a better world. This idea is supported by many. The role of schools in a democratic state is immense. Deschooling in Illis is about transferring those tasks of society to the individual. Such direct transfers of existing capital will contribute to the expansion of education in the future. Deschooling is not really a great idea. The eel's thoughts were like a swan in the sky. Some educators believe that 'Illis' ideas are important because they

can be used to reshape education according to the needs of different people in society to promote democracy and social justice as well as redefine educational activities.

Ellis' approach will also have a similar impact on related aspects of pedagogy such as ecopedagogy, invisible pedagogy, liquid pedagogy, expanded education, home schooling, unschooling, flexi schooling. Illis's ideas are of greater theoretical importance. However, his thoughts on education paved the way for new thinking in the formulation of inter-ethnic educational policies in recent times. Some thinkers believe that Ellis' ideas are nothing but a theoretical emptiness and that the acceptability of his educational proposals and data is very limited.

However, it cannot be denied that his ideas influenced many educators and resulted in the 'Deschooling' movement. Based on his 'Deschooling' concept, "Home schooling" systems have been developed in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States, and many other countries. However, such schools are not socially acceptable but are not considered unnecessary.

Statistics show that there are about 57,000 home learners in Australia, 3,201 in Brazil, 5% in Canada, 2% in North America, 3% in the United States, 1,000,000 families in Israel, 6,000 families in China and 2.71 million students in India They enrolled. There are 600 such schools in Denmark. In France, such schools are considered legal. It focuses on acquiring seven specific skills.

## CONCLUSION

The importance of Illich's educational philosophy is indirectly demonstrated by the fact that there are about 1,000 in Germany, about 2,100 in Switzerland, about 48,000 in the United States, and in most countries around the world. The lockdown was declared under the influence of COVID-19 and educational institutions were completely closed

Usefulness has been felt considerably. Therefore, the need for non-school education or home schooling in such a system indicates the popularity of his philosophy. In order to revive our stagnant education system, home schooling based on the concept of schoollessness must be popularized. Only then can the education system keep pace with the times. The reliance on the use of traditional schools as it is now will also be reduced. The National Education Policy 2020 also emphasizes the importance of the concept of home schooling without schools.

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