

Disadvantages of Home-Based Education

Currently, education seems to be more accessible than ever before. The technological progress of the last century rendered information and learning instruments more available, facilitating alternative education types such as home-based learning. Compared to formal education, homeschooling practices seem to have a long-standing history since for a significant part of human existence knowledge and skills were transmitted directly from parents to their offspring. Although home-based education predates formal schooling, its long history should not be the reason to select this type of education since it has several downsides: effectiveness, socialization, and time and monetary resources.

Firstly, homeschooling may not be as efficient as formal learning. Formal learning is generally delivered by qualified individuals who studied to educate children and teenagers of a certain age. This type of education is structured and systematic, whereas the majority of parents might not understand how to start teaching a particular subject. Even though some subjects can be taught relatively straightforwardly, others, such as chemistry or physics, require equipment and knowledge that parents could lack. Moreover, the current pandemic proved that homeschooling is seemingly not the most optimal choice for many. Since this spring, millions of children had to stay at home, and parents struggled to maintain the required educational standards. Overall, parents' possible lack of specialized skills and knowledge suggests that they cannot deliver the education of the same quality as schools.

Secondly, additional time and financial resources also contribute to the claim. If a parent or a caregiver does not seem qualified to teach their children a subject, tutoring might be a suitable alternative. Yet, private teachers and tutors are not economically available for a large part of the population. Certified teachers with sufficient experience charge an hourly fee not affordable for some households. Thus, for low-income families, high-quality home-based education is significantly less accessible. Homeschooling without help from a third party

entails being fully occupied with a child's education, so for parents and caregivers, it is a time-consuming task as students need consistency, planning, and a thought-through curriculum. Moreover, If both caregivers have full-time jobs, homeschooling may appear as an insurmountable chore. Time-related and financial sides of home-based education render it unfeasible for numerous households.

Thirdly, the most prominent adverse effects that home-based education entails are related to socialization. Regarding social skills, schools can serve as a setting in which children and adolescents extensively exercise conflict resolution, teamwork, and effective communication. The skills are fundamental for future professional activities and managing interpersonal relationships. The opportunities to exercise the same social skills at home appear to be less numerous and frequent. In addition, various interpersonal affective relationships are formed in schools. Friendships and romantic relationships built there provide multiple learning opportunities. The interpersonal connections also represent a crucial source of companionship, emotional support, and in some cases, intellectual stimulation. Therefore, home-based education reduces the opportunities to exercise core social skills and bond with peers – vital factors in psycho-emotional development.

Although home-based learning is no longer the most common education choice, it remains a viable option in the country – an option not suitable for a large number of households. This type of education appears less effective, more time consuming, and potentially high-cost. Additionally, homeschooling does not facilitate socialization, while schools are an optimal setting to develop interpersonal skills. In conclusion, home-based education is appropriate for specific types of households but does not seem to be a full-fledged alternative to formal education.