

Information, Knowledge, and Education: Related but not the Same

If our objective is to develop a well-defined education program, we must first know what education is.

Education is defined as the “knowledge or skills obtained from an experience that lead to a change in behavior.” An experience can be reading, watching, hearing, or doing. Since there are many ways to obtain knowledge, there are equally as many ways to be educated.

Knowing what education is helps us create a sound education program. However, we must now look at the inputs into an education program and what we want out of the education program (the outcomes).

The inputs into the education program are basically various forms of information. **Information** is defined as “the act of informing or condition of being informed: communication or reception of knowledge.” The secret of a successful education program is KNOWLEDGE.

Knowledge is “the state or fact of knowing” and **knowing** is “to have a practical understanding of something.” *Practical* is the key word.

A true education program should always be focused on ensuring that participants are able to take home practical information from the learning experience that will change the way they perform their work and result in an improved level of performance.