The Political Economy of Education Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The Political Economy of Education Training Course offers a critical examination of how political forces, economic systems, and social structures intersect to shape educational policies and outcomes. It provides a sophisticated framework for understanding the complex dynamics behind educational reforms, funding models, and access disparities. This interdisciplinary approach integrates insights from economics, political science, and sociology to analyze the incentives, power dynamics, and institutional constraints that influence educational development. Participants will explore how education is not merely a public service but a site of contested interests, where ideologies of meritocracy, marketization, and social justice clash.

This program delves into how macroeconomic trends, fiscal policies, and global governance impact local education systems. We will uncover how **neoliberalism**, **privatization**, and **decentralization** are transforming schools, universities, and vocational training, often leading to increased stratification and inequality. The course emphasizes practical **policy analysis** and **political economy analysis** (PEA) skills, empowering students to deconstruct complex policy issues, identify key stakeholders, and propose evidence-based solutions for creating more equitable and effective educational systems. By the end, participants will be equipped to navigate the political landscape of education and drive meaningful, sustainable change.

Programme Curriculum

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Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Analyze the relationship between **economic growth**, **human capital theory**, and educational investment.
- Critically evaluate the impact of **globalization** and **neoliberal reforms** on national education systems.
- Apply **political economy analysis** (PEA) frameworks to understand policy reform processes.
- Examine the role of **social class**, **gender**, and **ethnicity** in shaping educational access and achievement.
- Assess the effects of **privatization** and **marketization** on educational equity and quality.
- Evaluate different **education financing** models, including public-private partnerships.
- Investigate the political dynamics of **teacher accountability** and **education governance**.
- Develop strategies for engaging **stakeholders** and building **political coalitions** for reform.
- Deconstruct the concept of **meritocracy** and its implications for social mobility.
- Analyze the politics of **curriculum reform** and its role in nation-building and social control.
- Compare **comparative education** systems to identify best practices and common challenges.
- Understand the political and economic forces driving **higher education reform** and massification.
- Formulate evidence-based **education policy recommendations** for sustainable development.

Organizational Benefits

- Enhancing **strategic planning** and **policy formulation** capabilities by providing a deeper understanding of the political context of education.
- Building capacity for effective **stakeholder engagement** and **coalition-building** to drive successful reforms.
- Equipping staff with the skills to conduct robust **political economy analysis**, leading to more resilient and context-sensitive projects.
- Improving **project design** and **implementation** by anticipating and mitigating political and institutional risks.
- Fostering a culture of **evidence-based policy-making** that moves beyond technical solutions to address systemic challenges.

- Strengthening an organization?ÇÖs ability to navigate complex and sensitive educational issues, from **fiscal policy** to **social equity**.

Target Audience

- Education policy makers and analysts
- Development professionals and staff from international organizations (e.g., World Bank, UNESCO)
- Researchers and academics in education, economics, and political science
- Leaders of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on education advocacy
- Government officials in ministries of education, finance, or planning
- School administrators and superintendents interested in the political context of their work
- Journalists and advocates covering education issues
- Graduate students in public policy, international development, and education.

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations of the Political Economy of Education

- Key Concepts: Defining political economy, human capital, social reproduction, and institutionalism.
- Historical Context: The evolution of education from a public good to a site of market-based reforms.
- Theoretical Frameworks: Examining classical and contemporary theories from Marx to Public Choice.
- Actors and Incentives: Mapping key stakeholders like governments, unions, private actors, and civil society.
- **Case Study:** The rise of education vouchers and charter schools in the U.S. and their political drivers.

Module 2: Education Financing and Fiscal Policy

- Funding Models: Analyzing public, private, and mixed financing of education.
- Fiscal Decentralization: The political and economic effects of shifting funding responsibilities to local levels.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Assessing the benefits and risks of private sector involvement.
- Donor Politics: The influence of international aid and development banks on national education policies.
- **Case Study:** The political battles over school funding formulas in Brazil or India.

Module 3: The Politics of Access and Equity

- Social Stratification: How class, race, and gender determine educational opportunities.
- Meritocracy Deconstructed: A critical look at the ideology of equal opportunity.
- Inequality in the Classroom: The political economy of teacher quality and resource allocation.
- Digital Divide: Analyzing the political and economic factors behind unequal access to educational technology.
- **Case Study:** The politics of affirmative action and university admissions in South Africa or Malaysia.

Module 4: Global and Regional Dynamics

- Globalization and Education: The role of international organizations in shaping national policies.
- Policy Convergence: Analyzing how global trends like PISA influence national curricula.
- Regional Blocs: The educational implications of economic unions like the European Union or ASEAN.
- Brain Drain: The political economy of skilled migration and its impact on developing countries.
- **Case Study:** The influence of the World Bank's education policies on countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Module 5: Accountability and Governance Reform

- Teacher Politics: The role of teacher unions and accountability measures.
- School-Based Management: Decentralization of decision-making to the local level.
- Policy Implementation: Why well-designed policies often fail in practice.
- Anti-Corruption in Education: Addressing the political and economic drivers of corruption.
- **Case Study:** The political resistance to teacher performance-based pay in Mexico or South Korea.

Module 6: Curriculum and Ideology

- Curriculum as a Political Tool: How curricula are shaped by nationalism, ideology, and identity politics.
- Vocational vs. Academic: The political economy of skill formation and labor market needs.
- Civic Education: Analyzing the ideological battles over what constitutes a "good citizen."
- Education and Conflict: The role of education in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding.
- **Case Study:** Debates over history textbooks and the portrayal of national identity in Japan or Israel.

Module 7: The Politics of Higher Education

- Massification: The political and economic pressures for expanding university access.
- Higher Education Financing: The role of tuition fees, student loans, and public subsidies.
- University Autonomy: The political debates over academic freedom and institutional governance.
- Globalization of Higher Ed: The rise of branch campuses and international rankings.
- **Case Study:** The political dynamics of student protests over tuition hikes in Chile or the UK.

Module 8: Policy Analysis and Advocacy

- Political Economy Analysis (PEA) Toolkit: Hands-on application of PEA methods for real-world scenarios.
- Power and Influence Mapping: Identifying key players and their interests.
- Evidence-Based Advocacy: Using research to influence policy.
- Negotiation and Coalition Building: Practical skills for navigating political conflicts.
- **Case Study:** Developing an advocacy campaign to reform education policy in a specific country.

Training Methodology

This course employs a **blended learning approach** that combines interactive lectures with practical, hands-on activities. The methodology is designed to be highly engaging and applicable to real-world challenges. Key components include:

- Interactive Lectures.
- Case Study Analysis.
- Group Projects.
- Simulations and Role-Playing
- Guest Speakers.
- Policy Memo Writing.
- Peer-to-Peer Learning.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

Register Online Now