

**In some countries it is thought advisable that children begin formal education at four years old, while in others they do not have to start school until they are seven or eight.**

**How far do you agree with either of these views?**

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Different educational systems throughout the world, mandate different school starting ages. I believe that age is not the only factor contributing to the optimal school entry criterion and there are other parameters which are not necessarily in direct correlation with age.

I opine that 'school-readiness' is a very important parameter which may not align with the formal schooling age. Before young children start primary school they should undertake early-school or kindergarten or some parents-based educations. That is to say, some play-based, child-directed educations teaching some basic social skills and communication with peer-group children and also educators.

If a country's educational policy set an early age for school entrance i.e. three or four, it should prepare some early childhood educations and trained educators to cope with very young children. Early childhood education is significantly different from task-based formal education and it is based on play, creativity and collaboration but if it has been delivered correctly ... can soundly prepare young children to enter into a structured educational environment.

However, I reckon that a higher school enrollment age might be a better solution. As an example of my own country, Iran, the mandatory primary school age is seven and generally, parents enroll their younger children of lower age in preschools or daycares and they teach the necessary educations to them and properly prepare them for starting formal education a few years later on. Therefore preschools and primary schools play their own roles correctly and children and parents benefit. In addition, parents will not feel compelled to send their young children to school at an early age.

Putting in a nutshell, formal educational policy of each country may differ from others' but the most important issue is structuring the whole educational system, . meaning early-schools and primary schools properly. If the school entry age in a country is three the educational disciplines should be compatible the young child requirements and if it is higher in another one, some additional educational infrastructures like preschool and kindergarten should be prepared and in public access.

