

Pragmatism : A School of Philosophy and its educational implications.

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Introduction:

Pragmatism was a school of philosophy that became popular in the United States in the early twentieth century. This philosophy emphasized that an idea's usefulness or practicality should be the method for measuring the merit of the idea. Today the term "pragmatic" is used to describe things that are realistic and grounded.

Instead of focusing on possibilities, this theory states that ideas should be judged on their practical real-world applications.

PRAGMATISM AND AIMS OF EDUCATION:

Pragmatists believe that life is dynamic which is subjected to constant change; hence the aims of education are bound to be dynamic.

According to them, Education deals with human life, so it must help the children to fulfill their biological and social needs. Education should enable a child to create values in his life.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF PRAGMATISM:

1. EDUCATION AS LIFE-

Pragmatists firmly believe that old and traditional education is dead and lifeless. Education is a continuous re-organizing, reconstructing and integrating the experience and activities of race. They want to conserve the worthwhile culture of the past, think out the solutions to meet the new situations and then integrate the two. Real knowledge can be gained only by activity, experiments and real life experiences.

2. EDUCATION AS GROWTH-

Thus education will be useful if it brings about the growth and development of the individual as well as the society in which he lives. Education is meant for the child and child is not meant for education and child is not empty bottle to be filled up by outside knowledge.

3. EDUCATION AS A SOCIAL PROCESS-

To pragmatism, man is a social being. He gains more and more knowledge through personal experiences than he gets from books. According to pragmatism, the education of the child should be through the medium of society so that develops in him socially desirable qualities which promote his welfare and happiness.

CONCLUSION :

The practical outlook and utilitarian philosophy of Pragmatism has tremendously influenced the education system in the present world. The study has found that the activity based teaching and learning method have turned the educational process to become purposeful. It has certainly infused a sense of reality in education. This experimental character of education enunciates the values in a child through his ideas.

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