



Implications of Pragmatism in Modern Educational System-A Conceptual Study

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Abstract

Pragmatism considers thought and words as instruments for forecasting, solving the problems and to take action and also rejects the idea of mirror reality. According to this, knowledge, language, concepts are all best in their practical application. The philosophy of pragmatism "emphasizes the practical application of ideas by acting on them to actually test them in human experiences". Pragmatism focuses on a "changing universe rather than an unchanging one as the idealists, realists and Thomists had claimed". This study attempts to analyse the forms of pragmatism, educational complications and also attempts to know about the application of pragmatism approach in different areas of education, methods of teaching and roles of teacher.

Keywords: Pragmatism, Nominalistic, Practice, Indispensable.

Introduction

It is a philosophical tradition that began in the United States around 1870. Peirce described it in his pragmatic maxim: "Consider the practical effects of the objects of your conception. Then, your conception of those effects is the whole of your conception of the object."

Pragmatism considers thought and words as instruments for forecasting, solving the problems and to take action and also rejects the idea of mirror reality.

One of the most important schools of philosophy of education is pragmatism. Pragmatism stands between idealism and materialism a sort of compromise. Its origin can be traced from the Sophists philosophers of ancient Greece who held that man is the measure of all things.

Meaning

The word 'Pragmatism' is originated from a Greek word meaning to do, to make, to accomplish. So, the use of words likes 'action' or 'practice' or 'activity'. Action gets priority over thought. Experience is at the centre of the universe.

Statement of the Problem

Does implementation of Pragmatism enhance the quality of education and students?

Literature Review

- According to the author Dr. Stevenson “a problematic act carried to completion in its natural setting.” “Project is a voluntary undertaking which involves constructive effort or thought and eventuates into objective results.”
- From the view of William James ”Pragmatism is a temper of mind, an attitude, it is also a theory of the nature of ideas and truths; and finally, it is theory about reality”.

Objectives of Study

- To study forms of pragmatism
- To study educational implications of pragmatism
- To study application of pragmatism approach in different areas of education
- To study methods of teaching and role of teacher according to pragmatism approach

Research Design and Methodology

Secondary data has been collected from various articles, journals (National as well as International) projects, Doctoral theses, online resources.

Forms of Pragmatism

1. **Humanistic Pragmatism:** This type of pragmatism is particularly found in social sciences. Man is the centre of everything and everything is to be done to satisfy human. Here, satisfaction of human nature is the criterion of utility.
2. **Experimental Pragmatism:** It focuses on practical application of ideas, concepts. Because modern science emphasis more on experimental method. Every problem can get solution through experiments. Hence, Experiment is the criterion of this form.
3. **Nominalistic Pragmatism:** According to this form, the result whatever we will get after experiment are always specific and never general.
4. **Biological Pragmatism:** Human beings are called as social animals. According to Biological Pragmatism Education develops social skills for the students which helps for them in their future life.

Educational Implications

1. **Education as Life:** According to pragmatism earlier system of education is nowhere useful in now a day as it requires continuous reconstruction in the concepts based on experiments and experience. By having traditional education system as a base new education system has to be integrated.
2. **Education as Growth:** One of the goals of education system is to grow & develop overall personality of a person. When a person get exposure to outside world and experiences the things practically then only, he can develop his thinking ability, in turn it enhances his

knowledge. If education develops overall personality of a person, then automatically it grows and develops the society in general.

3. **Education is a Continuous Restructuring of Experience:** Education is the process of Development. One can gain Knowledge through experiences and experiments he do. For pragmatists educational process has no end beyond itself. For individual it is a continuous reorganizing, restructuring and integrating the experience and activities of the race.
4. **Education the Responsibility of State:** Providing Education which is useful to the one's life is the responsibility of State. If State fails to do then it has negative impact on the development of the nation. Hence it is the responsibility of the state to make a person to be capable of facing all the situations and solving problems by himself.

Principles

According to pragmatism the theory and practice of education is based on two main principles:

- (i) Education should have social function.
- (ii) Education should provide real-life experience to a person.

Application of Pragmatism in Different Areas of Education

➤ Pragmatism and Aims of Education

Education deals with human life. Pragmatism believes that there can be no fixed aims of education. Life is dynamic and subject to constant change and hence the aims of education should be dynamic. It must help a person to fulfil their biological and social needs. The only aim of education, according to pragmatism, is to enable a person to create values in his life.

➤ Pragmatism and Curriculum

The aims of education are reflected in the curriculum. The curriculum should be framed on the basis of certain basic principles. These are utility, interest, experience and integration.

Hence those subjects, who have utility to the students, should be included in the curriculum. The subjects who carry occupational or vocational utility should find a place in the curriculum. Language, hygiene, history, geography, physics, mathematics, sciences, domestic science for girls, agriculture for boys should be incorporated in the curriculum.

While deciding the subjects of curriculum the nature of a student, his tendencies, interests, impulses at the various stages of his growth and multiple activities of daily life should be taken into consideration.

➤ Pragmatism and Methods of Teaching

The principle of philosophy of pragmatic method of teaching is practical utility. The student is the central point in this method. Pragmatic method is an activity-based method. The essence of pragmatic method is learning through personal experience of a person. To a pragmatist education means preparation for practical life.

The pragmatists are not interested in lectures or theoretical exposition. They want the children to do something. The student should learn by doing. “Learning by doing” is the aim of pragmatic education.

➤ **Pragmatism and Discipline**

“In pragmatic scheme of education, the children are expected to work in cooperation with one another. They are to take up a project on real problem, and to work at it as a team. These cooperative activities impart to them very useful qualities of social life-sympathy, give and take, fellow-feeling, spirit of sacrifice and toleration-which constitute an invaluable moral training for them.”

Methods of Teaching According to Pragmatism Approach

The pragmatism has given more emphasis on following method of teaching.

- Personal reference in the library.
- Project method which asks students to do some research and prepare a project.
- Learning by doing method.
- Correlation method
- Play way method
- Use of dynamic method of teaching.
- Experimentation.
- Activity.
- It also encourages discussion as a method of laboratory work.
- Educational tours and excursions.

Role of Teacher According to Pragmatism Approach

The role of the teacher is as follows:

- In pragmatism the teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide for students.
- The teacher is not a dictator but only a leader of a group.
- Teacher should have knowledge of student’s interest and provide them social environment.
- Further the teacher should believe in democratic values.
- The teacher should have knowledge of social conditioning.
- The teacher should not over shadow the personality of the pupil.

Conclusion

From the above study we can conclude that, Implications of Pragmatism in modern educational system is very essential as its emphasis on practicality. Reading a book gives a limited knowledge to a person and its just like spoon feeding. If this is implied through experiments and experience one can gain knowledge, and find solution to their own problem and it develops their overall personality. Hence, according to this concept a teacher should play a role as Guide, Moderator, Mentor, supporter to a student rather than just a teacher. Overall, it helps for the development of an individual particularly and society as a whole.

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