THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAGMATIC COMPETENCES IN EDUCATION

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Annotation: As the word Pragmatic means the quality of dealing with the problem in a sensible way that suits the conditions that really exists, rather than following a fixed theories, ideas or rules. Pragmatism is an educational philosophy that says education should be teaching students the things that are practical for life and encourages them to grow into better people. Many famous educators including John Dewey, William James were pragmatists.
Key words: pragmatists, pragmatism, process of teaching-learning, practical learning.

Pragmatists believe in the idea of practical learning i.e. education should apply to the real world. Thus, this paper examines Pragmatism, its contribution to education. It further discusses how the basic principles of pragmatism can be applied in learning thereby making the process of teaching-learning more effective.

The term 'Pragmatism' derives its origin from a Greek word 'Pragma' meaning 'Activity' or 'Practice' or 'Action'. As action gets priority over thought, Pragmatism is also known as 'Expenditure' which believes in 'practicability' or 'utility' depending upon the truth, reality, goodness or badness which are all relative terms and are not predetermined or absolute. Pragmatism tends to hold the idea that the truth/fact of yesterday needs to be experienced truly, today and tomorrow. It idealizes the activity on the basis of its consequence over time frame. In short, it conceptualizes an inference on the basis of changed or changing needs, circumstances and places.

Pragmatists believe that no truth is absolute and permanent as it is ever changing from time to time and place to place and from circumstance to circumstance. Thus, their fundamental start is "change". Whatever was true yesterday need not be the true today. The philosophy of pragmatists is predetermined to those ideas and values which result in utility to mankind in certain time, place or circumstance rather than any predetermined of life. Pragmatic philosophy is a practical philosophy having no fixed or absolute standards. Man always creates new values and education should help him in doing so. Being practical and utilitarian school of philosophy, Pragmatism has influenced education to the maximum extent. It has tried overcoming the limitations of other schools like idealism and naturalism and has influenced the world to a great extent. The chief exponents of Pragmatism are: C.B. Pierce, Archie J. Balm, John Dewey, William James, Will Durrant and Shiller. For Pragmatism, "Experience' is at the centre of the universe. Hence, it lays emphasis upon man made ideas and values resulted by the experimental activities.

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. In the words of Ross, education must create new values: "the main task of educator is to put the educand into a position to develop values for him".

The aims of education as formulated by the Pragmatists are the following:

✓ To create new values: The Pragmatists do not believe in the theory of any fixed aim of education. In their opinion, the aim of education is to create new values and the act of teacher is to help himself develop new

values.

✓ To enable pupils to gather experience through activity: For the creation of new values, activity and experience are essential. Education should Therefore, provide physical, intellectual, moral and aesthetic activities as the media for the creation of new values.

1. To help the pupil to adjust with him and the society: The other important aim of education according to pragmatism is to help the pupil to make adjustment with himself and the society.

✓ To help the pupil to reconstruct his experience: Every individual has to solve different types of complex problems in his life. So the another important aim of education, according to Pragmatism is to enable the pupil to form such an outlook about life as can help to tackle successfully the different problems of his life in
future,

✓ To make all round development of the pupil: All round development of the individual is also an important aim of education. The individual develops physically, mentally, socially and aesthetical

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