

Idealism and Education

Idealism

The word 'idealism' signifies two terms: 'idea' and 'ideal'. Plato conceived of ideas as the basis of his philosophy.

His philosophy of idealism which represents more of ideas can better be known as idealism. It is an old philosophy.

Exponents

Plato (427-347 BC)

Kant (1724-1804)

Hegel (1770-1831)

Froebel (1732-1852)

Tagore (1861-1950)

Concept of idealism

Idealism is a philosophical position which adheres to the view that nothing exists except an idea in the mind of man, the mind of God or in a super or supra-natural realm.

It deals with certain basic questions of human life.

It holds that mind or spirit, as each man experiences it in himself, is fundamentally real and that the totality of the universe is somehow mind or spirit in its essence. To the idealist the reality is spiritual in nature rather than physical, mental rather than material. Ideas are eternal and unchanging.

Characteristics of Idealism

The universe exists in spirit.

Mechanical explanation of the universe is inadequate.

Teleological explanation of the universe.

Man is central in creation.

Emphasis upon normative and social sciences.

Normative description of the universe.

Conceptualism.

Universe is knowable.

Greater emphasis upon the mental or spiritual aspect of the universe.

Idealism and Education

An idealist's concept of education is something which leads one to the highest moral conduct and deepest spiritual insight.

Education, according to idealism, is a spiritual necessity and not a natural

necessity.

Education must convert original nature of man into spiritual nature.

In the words of Ruskin, "Education must enable mankind through its culture to enter more and more fully into the spiritual realm".

Idealism and Aims of Education

Self realization Aim

Spiritual development aim

Develop of physical health

Enrichment, promotion, and preservation of cultural values

Cultivation of moral Values

Idealism and Discipline

Idealism advocates discipline at all cost. Freedom is to be restricted by ideals and it emphasizes on impressionistic discipline.

Idealism and Teacher

Teacher should be:

Role model

Friend, philosopher and guide

Perfectionist of mind

Personification of reality

Idealism and Curriculum

Idealistic Curriculum is developed according to Ideas and Eternal values. Humanistic subjects are emphasised. Equal importance is given to physical development.

1. Physical activity-

Care of body

- Physical exercise, health and hygiene

Skills

- Medical knowledge and practice

2. Spiritual activity-

Intellectual development - Language, literature, history, geography, maths, science

Aesthetic development. - Art and poetry

Moral development. - Religion and ethics

Idealism and Method of Teaching

Idealists think they are the creators of methods of teaching and thus they advocate various methods of teaching and are not slave of any one method. Few of their teaching methods are-

Question answer

Conversation

Dialogue

Lecture Method
Imitation