

Welcome to the Bachelor of Education Program Paper Edu 01, Foundations of Education, Unit 2-Contributions of Great Educators, Module 13 ,John Dewey . I am Mrs Akshata Samant, Assistant Professor GVM's Dr. Dada Vaidya College of Education , Ponda, Goa .

In today's module, we shall have a look at Dewey's contribution to education and try and understand his concept of education, the psychological and sociological aspects of education, Child centered education,, Democratic conception of education, universal education, flexible activity based curriculum, methods of teaching, concept of discipline and modern thoughts and progressive education. By the end of this module, we assume that the student will be able to identify the contribution of John Dewey to the field of Education.

John Dewey,

The greatest educational thinker and reformer of the 20th century, John Dewey was an American philosopher, psychologist and a practical teacher. He was the first to give a systematic treatment to the philosophy of education . A pragmatic thinker Dewey emphasized the practical aspects of education. His most philosophic and practical mind made far reaching contributions to the curriculum and methods of teaching, concepts of democracy and discipline.

He believed that education must be child centered and students must explore and learn through experience. He advocated Progressive Education. In 1896, Dewey founded his Experimental Laboratory School in Chicago, known as the University of Chicago. It was in this school that he practiced and experimented his theories and concepts of education. Hence it was here that his educational theory actually originated.

Influence on American education.

John Dewey contributed more to the reconstruction and redirection of American education than anybody else. The democratic atmosphere, the happiness of the school children and friendliness between the teachers and the students, the respect for dignity of each individual and the sense of freedom and equality coupled with a sense of responsibility that we see today and appreciate in American schooling owes credit to Dewey's educational philosophy.

In today's module we shall have a look at Dewey's Contribution to education regarding the concept of education, process of education, child centered education, Democratic conception of education, universal education, flexible activity based curriculum, methods of teaching, concept of discipline, modern thoughts and progressive education.

Dewey's concept of education.-He defined educational process as a continual reorganization, reconstruction and transformation of experiences, for he believed that it is only through experience that a man can maintain and better himself in the world. Education is thus an active process of experiencing. Students must explore and learn through experience. His was an education by, of and for experience. Education is a process of living and not a preparation for future life. It is not a part of life, but life itself. Since the school is a reflection of the larger society , experiences the child has in the school must be as real and vital to him as those at home. School prepares him to actively participate in the community life and helps a child gain knowledge, of how to face the actual problems in life. Education is the development of all those capacities in the individual which will enable him to control his environment and fulfill his responsibilities.

The educational process-Education, according to Dewey, has two sides, psychological and social, which together form an organic whole. Education must therefore begin with the psychological insight into the child's capacity, interest, attitudes and inclinations. These must then be translated into the terms of their social equivalence of what they are capable of in the way of social service. Dewey established an organic relationship between the individual and the society? All Education according to Dewey is for the progress of the individual in particular and the society in general.

Child Centered education-John Dewey, stressed on child centered education and deserves full credit for emphasizing this form of education, since the study of individual differences now forms the basis of present education. The child is the starting point, the center and the end of all educational endeavours. He believed students must explore and learn through their own experiences.

The Democratic conception of education- the organic relationship between the individual and the society, forms the foundation of democratic values in education . According to Dewey, school is a miniature society. What the students experience in the school will help them learn to live in the society. Cultivation Of Democratic values, inculcation of social responsibility are the major objectives of education. The Nature of the school community should be democratic and the child should be trained in the art of living together. He viewed democracy as a weapon to demolish barriers between individual communities and nations.

Universal education-Dewey viewed democracy as a chance for free and compulsory education. His ideals also led to faith in universal and compulsory education for all. He firmly believed that every individual must be given the opportunity to develop his personality through education .

Curriculum- Dewey stressed on the following principles underlying formation of educational curriculum, principle of flexibility, principle of utility, principle of activity including child's own experience, principle of community involvement . Dewey rejected the ready-made curriculum and wanted it to grow out of the learners interest and impulses, and requirements . He advocated a course organized around the child's activities and experiences and not the one divided into subjects, to be completed in fixed intervals of time. Interaction between the school and the society was important, and hence occupations and associations which serve the need of men were included in the curriculum. Introduction of skill subjects and importance of games in the modern curriculum owe credit to Dewey.

Methods of teaching- Dewey's methods of teaching are to be viewed from the child's point of view. It shifts the emphasis from teaching to learning. Self expression, direct experience and activity form the core of his methods of teaching. A few examples of the same are learning by doing , experimental method, project method, problem solving , the project method where children learn from their own efforts and experiences are a direct offshoot of Dewey's theory of learning by doing. The basis of this method is that learning must be accomplished by self doing, self interest and self activity and through the experiences gained by the students. The problem solving method emphasized on activity directed towards the solution rendered to real life problems faced by the individuals in their social life.

Dewey's Concept of discipline- Self discipline and social discipline are integral to education and can be inculcated through activities and democratic values. Inclusion of social activities in the school curriculum would afford a sense of discipline as beneficial for individual and social life.

Modern thoughts -Dewey was a believer of scientific way of thinking. He encouraged original thinking and experimentation. His belief that education itself is life gave rise to the concept of Progressive Education. His ideas on the practice of education were in touch with the actualities of life. He drew principally upon

the growing forces of democratization, industrialism, evolution and pragmatism for support. Few aspects of life and thought have remained beyond the range of his investigation. All in all, we can very firmly say that Dewey gave a new direction to education. Thank you.