

Essentialism

Educational Philosophy

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Essentialism

- Essentialism is an American philosophy of education which began in 1930s and 1940's
- Essentialism has philosophical Orientation from Idealism and Realism
- Essentialism refers to basic education
- Essentialists believe in teaching the basic subjects
- This philosophy advocates training the mind.
- Essentialist educators focus on transmitting a series of progressively difficult topics and promotion of students to the next level or grade.

Historical Development of theory

- William C. Bagley (1874–1946) was one of the most influential advocates of essentialism.
- Bagley believed that education was not supposed to change society but to preserve it

Events

- Launching of Sputnik by the Soviet Union in 1957
- Report-A Nation at Risk (1983)
- No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2005.

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- This approach was in reaction to progressivist approaches prevalent in the 1920s and 30s.
 - William Bagley, took progressivist approaches to task in the journal he formed in 1934.
 - Other proponents of Essentialism are:
 - James D. Koerner (1959)
 - H. G. Rickover (1959)
 - Paul Copperman (1978)
 - Theodore Sizer (1985)

Theme

- Essentialists believe that there is a common core of knowledge that needs to be transmitted to students in a systematic, disciplined way.
- The emphasis in this conservative perspective is on intellectual and moral standards that schools should teach.
- The core of the curriculum is essential knowledge and skills and academic rigor.
- Essentialists accept the idea that this core curriculum may change.
- Schooling should be practical, preparing students to become valuable members of society.

Curriculum

- Back to the Basics
- It should focus on "the basics,"

Training students to read, write, speak, and compute clearly and logically.

3 Rs , 4 Rs

Concept of Core Curriculum

- This philosophy stresses core knowledge in reading, writing, math, science, history, foreign language, and technology.
- The tools include lecturing, memorization, repetition, practice, and assessment.

Discipline

- Teachers are to help students keep their non-productive instincts in check, such as aggression or mindlessness.
- Rigid Routines of Learning and Assessment
- Students should be taught hard work, respect for authority, and discipline

Case of Pakistan

Discuss, how essentialism is being followed by Pakistani Education System ?