

Project Method of Teaching Meaning, Advantage & Disadvantages

Meaning of Project Method of Teaching

Project method of teaching has evolved from the philosophy of pragmatists. It is experience-centered strategy related to life-situation. This teaching strategy focus on

1. To socialize a child
2. To achieve cognitive, affective and psychomotor objectives

This teaching strategy is based on the following principles

1. Principle of Utility. Choose those projects which are closer to the social life.
2. Principle of readiness. Involve the learners in finding the solution of the problem with their active participation.
3. Learning by Doing. Learner performs certain tasks and experiences new things. This adds to his knowledge and results in learning.
4. Socialization. It develops the feeling of cooperation and group work.
5. Inter-disciplinary Approach. To involve the knowledge of different subjects in solving the social problems.

Types of Project Method of Teaching

According to Kilpatrick, "A project is a whole-hearted purposeful activity proceeding in a social environment". Kilpatrick has classified the project method in four types.

1. **Constructive.** When learners have to construct some things related to social life. e.g. charts, models, maps, parcels etc.
2. **Artistic.** These projects are generally allotted in the aesthetic fields of life. e.g. in music, drawing, painting art and culture.
3. **Problem-Solving.** These projects are given to solve the problems related to any life-situation or related to any subject e.g. how to operate bank accounts? Or how to send an email or letter. These general problems if solved, will make a child efficient for social-life.
4. **Group-Work.** A team of students is assigned a work to be performed. e.g. to develop a garden in the school.

The characteristics of project method

1. A project has a definite attainable goal.
2. It involves life-like and purposeful activities which promote learning.
3. Students can plan and perform their learning activities.
4. It promotes learning by doing.
5. It provides a real and direct experience.
6. It encourages spontaneity. The students feel free to express themselves.
7. It helps to develop practical skills.
8. Project method is democratic in nature. All the participants have equal rights, duties and responsibilities.

Major Steps of the Project Method

1. Creating the situation (Providing a situation)
2. Selection of the Project
3. Planning
4. Execution
5. Evaluation
6. Recording

Advantages

1. It helps in developing social norms and social values among the learners.
2. It gives an opportunity to correlate the subject matter to real life situations.
3. It helps in growing knowledge very effectively as a result of their close cooperation on social participation in the spirit of democracy.
4. Students are more receptive and learn faster when they work together.

Disadvantages

1. The project cannot be planned for all subjects and whole subject matter cannot be taught by this strategy.
2. It is time consuming.
3. It involves a lot of expenditure.

Suggestions

1. This teaching strategy should not be used an independent teaching strategy but as a supplementary teaching technique.
2. To avoid the problem of supervision, teacher may appoint a leader to each group of students.
3. Teacher should fix a time limit for each project.