

PROJECT METHOD OF TEACHING

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Meaning of Project Method

- ▶ Teachers need to explore and find new teaching approaches in order to keep their students engaged and interested in the class. One such approach that teachers try and are really effective is the project method of teaching also known as project based learning. It is one of the modern method of teaching in which, the students point of view is given importance in designing the curriculum and content of studies. This method is based on the philosophy of ‘Pragmatism’ propagated by John Dewey and the principle of ‘Learning by doing’. Project method was first developed and given a concrete shape by William Head Kilpatrick in his article “ The Project Method”(1918) in the University of Columbia. It is a revolt against the traditional method of teaching which is marked by listlessness and passivity and lack of active involvement of students. The project approach is characterised by high level of student involvement, student activity, enthusiasm, interest, need and commitment.

Definitions of Project Method

1. William Head Kilpatrick (1921), “ A Project is a whole-hearted purposeful activity proceeding in a social environment”.
2. Stevenson (1922), “A project is a problematic act carried to completion in its most natural setting”.
3. H.G. Ballard (1936), “A Project is a bit of real life that has been imported into school”.
4. Parker(1922), “A Project is a unit of activity in which pupils are made responsible for planning and purposing”.

Characteristics of Project Method

- ▶ 1. A project is a purposeful activity.
- ▶ 2. A project is a real-life activity.
- ▶ 3. A project is a problem- centred activity.
- ▶ 4. A project is a whole- hearted activity.
- ▶ 5. A project is a cooperative activity.
- ▶ 6. A project is child- centred activity.
- ▶ 7. A project is a integrated activity.
- ▶ 8. A project is an activity which results in concrete and positive achievement.
- ▶ 9. A project is an activity in a social setting.
- ▶ 10. A project seeks to encourage individuals to understand life in unity.

Main Principles of Project Method

- ▶ 1. Principle of Purpose
- ▶ 2. Principle of Activity
- ▶ 3. Principle of Experience
- ▶ 4. Principle of Social Experience
- ▶ 5. Principle Reality
- ▶ 6. Principle of Freedom
- ▶ 7. Principle of Utility

Steps involved in the implementation of Project Method

- ▶ 1. Providing a Situation
- ▶ 2. Choosing and purposing of the project
- ▶ 3. Planning of the project
- ▶ 4. Execution of the project
- ▶ 5. Evaluation of the project
- ▶ 6. Recording of the project

Types of Project Method

- ▶ 1. Individual and Group project method: In individual project, every student's problem is solved in their own according to interest, capacity and attitude.
- ▶ In group project, the problem is solved by the group of pupils in the class.
- ▶ 2. Simple and Complex project method: In the simple project the students are completing one work at a time. It gives deep information of the project, thus the students get deeper and broader knowledge about the problem.
- ▶ In the complex, the students are carried out more than one work at a time. They are focussed on the work in various activities and dimensions.

Types of Project Method according to Kilpatrick

- ▶ 2. Aesthetic project
- ▶ 3. Problematic project
- ▶ 4. Drill Project
- ▶ 1. Constructive project

Role of the teacher in Project Method

- ▶ 1. Teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide.
- ▶ 2. Teacher should provide democratic atmosphere.
- ▶ 3. Teacher should have thorough knowledge of individual difference.
- ▶ 4. Teacher should remain alert and active.
- ▶ 5. Teacher should encourage collaborative and cooperative work.
- ▶ 6. Teacher should have initiative, tact and zest for learning.
- ▶ 7. Teacher should be well -trained, well-read and well- informed.
- ▶ 8. Teacher should help the students in developing their character and personality.

Benefits of Project Method

1. Psychologically sound:
 - A) Based on the laws of learning like law of readiness, law of exercise and law of effect.
 - B) Child centred approach.
 - C) Freedom of learning in natural and social environment.
2. Practical and applied approach.
3. Correlation with other subjects.
4. Training for a democratic way of life.
5. Inculcating dignity of labour.
6. Providing a source of happiness for the Backward students
7. Provides integration of physical and mental activities.
8. Solving the problem of indiscipline.
9. Development of critical thinking and problem solving ability of students.
10. Training in citizenship.

Drawbacks of Project Method

- ▶ 1. Neglect of intellectual work.
- ▶ 2. Upsetting the time-table
- ▶ 3. Difficulty in getting suitable text-books.
- ▶ 4. Lack of competent teachers.
- ▶ 5. Financial constraints.
- ▶ 6. Lack of suitable learning material
- ▶ 7. Artificial correlation
- ▶ 8. Difficult to cover courses
- ▶ 9. Too much reliance on young children.
- ▶ 10. Unsuitable to the overall system of education.