

# Dewey's contribution to educational thought and practice

(1) Dewey's social theory of education coupled with the logic of experimental method has been very influential in the development of modern education practices.

(2) The greatest change has been in the recognition of the worth of the expense of the child. The child is no longer regarded as a passive subject meant for the imposition of external information but is considered an active living being whose interests have to be stimulated by participation in socially significant experience.

(3) Dewey has been one of the significant leaders who have tried to introduce a more human touch in the processes of education.

# Dewey's Method of Teaching

Dewey's method of teaching is based on his pragmatic philosophy. He is of the opinion that direct experience is the basis of all method. Knowledge takes place from concrete and meaningful situations. Hence knowledge should come from spontaneous activities of the children. Dewey's method of teaching are based on the principles of learning by doing activities in connection with the life of the child.

The project or problem method which Dewey advocated, the child's interests and purposes are the most important things. For his problem or project method, Dewey laid down the following five steps as essential.

(1) The pupil should have a genuine situation of experiences.

# Dewey on School Curriculum

- Dewey advocates that broader curricular programmes are needed and emphasis should be placed in the total development of the person as being equally important as the intellectual and the academic.
- The teacher is a guide and director he steers the boat, but the energy that people it must come from those who are learning. The more a teacher is aware of the past experience of students of their hopes, desires, chief interests the better will be.
- The teacher is engaged not simply in the training of individuals but in the formation of the proper social life. In this way the teacher always is the prophet of the true God.