

Course 1

Knowledge & Curriculum

B. Ed. 2nd Year
G. B. College of Education

EXISTENTIALISM

1. INTRODUCTION
2. ASSUMPTIONS
3. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS
4. LIMITATIONS IN EXISTENTIALISM

INTRODUCTION:

- Existentialism is the youngest philosophy
- It is very difficult to find its roots in any of the ancient philosophers
- It may be described as a modern philosophy which is primarily built on the work of the contemporary scholars of the twentieth century
- Its chief exponents are: Soren Kierkegaard, Jan Paul Sartre, Karl Jaspers, Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr

ASSUMPTIONS:

- Starting point of all existence is the recognition of the individual existence
- Self-Knowledge is the key to all truth and knowledge
- Each man has the freedom and responsibility of or creating his own values
- Man is not complete
- Man is a free agent capable of shaping his own life and choosing his own destiny

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Primary aim of education is the making of a human person as one who lives and makes decisions about what he will do and be
- The school should provide an environment where the individuals find security, encouragement and acceptance by teachers
- All school subjects and activities should present situations for the development of human beings

- The teacher should facilitate development or originality and creativity by providing necessary material
- The teacher is active and welcomes challenges to his ideas from the students
- Democratic ideals must pervade the school environment in which the students grow
- Concern and respect for the individual student should be the main concern of the school

LIMITATIONS

- The educational methods appear to be impractical and inapplicable in an industrial society
- It requires a lot of time and effort on part of the teacher to develop individual relationship with the students for having a closer understanding of their personalities
- Terminology used in Existentialism is not very clear

Reference: Philosophical, Sociological and Economic Basis of Education by Dr. KC Jain, Dr. Dharamvir, Dr. Rakesh Sandhu & Dr. Maya Mishra

Presented by Dr. Sushma Chugh and Dr. Mona Malhotra