

# **Realism**

## **Introduction**

Realism- the attribute of accepting the facts of life and favoring practicality and literal truth.  
Practicality - concerned with actual use rather than theoretical possibilities.

Realism, tends towards a more actual view of a situation. Realism focuses on :”What actually is?”

Realism, causes one to assess a situation as it is, without the emotional involvement.

Idealists tend to be more optimistic and positive compared to realists, while perceiving different things and carrying out different tasks.

When making decisions, realists are more goal-oriented than idealists.

Idealists may have very fancy ambitions, but may lack clarity and they may lack focus to translate their ideas into doable actions.

Realism, is somewhat related with pragmatism.

## **Exponents**

Gustave Courbet, Jean-François Millet, Honoré Daumier, and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot.

## **Principles of Realism:**

1. It is against idealism. It does focus on realities only.
2. It is based on real things (materials).
3. Favours observation, behaviour and experiments.
4. It has the belief of change with time.
5. It has the belief that education is based on science only.

## **Realism As a philosophy of education**

- Realism is a complex philosophy because of its many varieties , i.e. classical realism, religious realism and scientific realism etc.
- The primary confusion over realism could be between a religious realism and a secular or scientific realism.

## **Aims of Education**

1. For the realist, the world is as it is, and the job of schools would be to teach students about the world. Goodness, for the realist, would be found in the laws of nature and the order of the physical world. The Realist believes in a world of Things or Beings (metaphysics) and in truth as an Observable Fact.
2. The **aim of education** according to **realism** is to give to the pupil a complete knowledge and understanding of human society human nature, motives and institutions. **Education** must explain to the pupil how he is related to the world of man and to the world of nature.
3. Realism in education recognizes the importance of the child. The child is a real unit which has real existence. He has some feelings, some desires and some powers. All these cannot be overlooked. These powers of the child shall have to be given due regard at the time of planning education. Child can reach near reality through learning by reason. Child has to be given as much freedom as possible.
4. Prepare the children (learners) for future life
5. Focus on mental and physical development of child
6. Provision of professional education to learners
7. **Self-preservation:** In order to live completely, as man has first of all to live, he has to continue his own existence. While instinct is the chief guarantee of this objective, education may also help by acquainting the learner with the laws of health and enabling him to earn a living.
8. **Securing the necessities of life:** It is especially in the realm of developing economic efficiency that education helps in preserving life. Money is not life, but it is a necessity in maintaining life. Education should train directly for success in this important function.
9. **Raising children.** According to Spencer, the most important function that most men and women have to perform is that of being parents. Therefore education should deal both with the care of children in the nursery and the discipline of them as growing boys and girls.
10. **Maintenance of social and political relations:** man must have some understanding and mastery of social and political processes. He must be a wise citizen who is equipped for effective social and political action.
11. **Enjoyment of leisure.** Life is not all serious struggles, keeping physically strong, earning a living, being a responsible parent and an earnest citizen. Complete living also includes freedom from struggle some of the time for “gratification of the tastes and feelings.”

### **Role of teacher**

- The teacher, for the realist, is simply a guide. The real world exists, and the teacher is responsible for introducing the student to it. To do this he uses lectures, demonstrations, and sensory experiences.
- **Realism** is the belief developed by Aristotle that there is an absolute reality, and educational **realism** attempts to **teach** students how to find that reality through logical processes. Study of the natural world, as well as the skill of inquiry, and the scientific method, are all important parts of a **realist** classroom

- The teacher, according to Realists, is expected to have full knowledge of the content and the needs of children.
- Not only this, he must also be capable to present before children the content in a clear way by employing psychological and scientific methods
- 
- Teacher should be;
  - a role model
  - Kind hearted
  - Personality developer
  - Good judge
  - Motivator
  - Facilitator
  - Good friend
- The role of the teacher in guiding the personality development of the children.
- In the form of games, free play and physical activity.
- The realists believe that the purpose of curriculum is to organize knowledge delivery to the students.
- Text books and lectures are prepared by the teachers for helping the students learn what they should learn.
- **Methods of teaching**
- Lecture method
- Demonstration method
- Debate

### **Metaphysics of realism**

- Metaphysical realism is the view that the world and its objects exist independently of how and whether we perceive, experience, or think about it.
- This is a strong position opposed to a variety of weaker forms of realism. That is, it opposes the view that the real world is even partly constituted or interpreted by us or in principle partly unknown or partly inaccessible to us (weaker realism, e.g. the reality of sky above

us has NOT been known to humans in material form and humans also cannot access it; BUT it only exists in our mind as according to our belief system) or that it exists in part or completely in our mind or dependent of it (various forms of idealism).

**Epistemology of Realism:**

- With respect to epistemology, realism is the view that we directly perceive the world as it is, or things in themselves, through our senses. The world inside our minds is identical to the world as it is — what we see, feel, taste, and so on, is accurately how the world is.

**Axiology of realism:**

- – a value position in the philosophy of science: ‘that science pursues theories that are true’; regardless of whether we can know that a theory is in fact true. • “...value claims (such as, nurturing a baby is good and abusing a baby is bad) can be literally true or false; that some such claims are indeed true; that their truth can be known or substantially approximated by humans objectively...