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Rousseau and his educational philosophy

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Abstract: His philosophy emerged as a reaction against the contemporary social and political set up. Rousseau was naturalist. He wrote against theatricality, coercion and cruelty during these times. His philosophy concepts of "Natural state", "Natural man and Natural Civilization". Natural state means that simple framing community or state without evils, corruption and social classes. Rousseau is called the father of modern educational theory and practice. After long experiences and struggle of life, he was become a successful writer, in the age of 38 years. At Geneva, he had simple, happy and pure life. He was emerged as revolutionary philosopher. His philosophy was based on a reaction against the contemporary social and political set up.

Key Words: Naturalist, contemporary, educational, evolutionary, theatricality, philosophy, reaction against.

Rousseau admired the simplicity and purity of nature. He stated that "God makes all things good; man meddles with them and they become evil." He declared that "Everything is good as it comes from the hands of the Author of Nature, but everything degenerates in the hands of man "According to Rousseau there are three meaning of nature. (1) Isolation from society he wanted that child should be isolated from the society. (2) Innate tendencies of the child- he advocated that innate tendencies are more reliable base for action than the experience gained from society. (3) Contact with Natural environment- He said that natural environment means hills, trees, rivers, plants, woods, animals birds stones and physical forces. He believed that the child should be brought up in natural environment and he will automatically become a natural being.

Curriculum- Rousseau believes that following subjects should be included in curriculum.

1. Sciences which deal with nature should be included i.e physics, chemistry, zoology and botany etc
2. Mathematics and languages should be included in the curriculum because they are considered tools for understanding science subjects.
3. Drawing should be included for free expression of ideas and speech.
4. For traditional subjects no place should be given.
5. He was in favoured in moral training through the theory of natural experience.so he emphasized on moral education.

Methods of teaching- Rousseau has suggested the following methods for teaching:

1. Example is better than perception
2. Social knowledge should be imparted through social participation.
3. Individual instructions should be given.
4. Heuristic method should be applied.

Women education- He believed that woman should not possess any individuality of her own. She should be regarded as subordinate to the nature of man. He remarked that women were born to govern the men. Rousseau has stated that "A man seeks to serve women seeks to please, the one knowledge, the other taste" it is clear from the earlier works of the Rousseau he gave a higher place than men.

Conclusion- He has stated that man born free, but everywhere he is in chain. He had full faith in natural man, natural civilization and natural state without any corruption, corrupt rulers and social classes. He has stated that God makes all things good man meddles with them and they become evil. He did not like artificiality. His philosophy is totally based on natural things and natural man. He has stated that natural sciences, social sciences, mathematics, craft, physical education, religion, demotic activities and moral education should be included in the curriculum. He has given fundamental principles of education, which have accepted by most of thinkers and educationist. His concept of teaching is warning to the teachers and educators. He has emphasis on direct experiences, learning by doing, and practical activities.

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