Q. Discuss the contribution of pragmatism to methods of teaching.

Ans. The pragmatists are against all traditional methods-bookish and passive learning. They advocate that only those methods of teaching should be co-opted which are based on the nature of the children and enable him to understand the society in which he lives.

Thus child centred and community centred method of teaching are acceptable to the pragmatists.

Pragmatic method of teaching are based on the following principles:

1. The principle of linking the method with the life of the child

2. The principle of learning by doing and learning living.

3. The principle of integration.

4. The project method.

The pragmatists emphasis that the aim of education is to make the present life of the child rich and fruitful. In the field of methods of teaching they emphasis on practical learning. Life oriented education should be given to the child so that they can adjust with the new challenges. In the process of teaching the principles of learning by doing or by experience is a valuable. Besides, the principles of integration should not be lost sight of. The project method is based on these principles. It is a paediocentric method which presents knowledge as a unified whole.

In spite of its practical difficulties the method of great importance in modern education.

Thus we see that pragmatism is a new approach in the field of educational theory. This philosophy represents the extreme materialism of the American people.