

Known Known

Knowledge

Date 11/07/22

Unit - IV

Saath

Answer the following questions :-

1. What is Realism? What are its different forms?

Ans: Knowledge implies a relation between a knower and the object known. It is out of the relation between the knower and the object known that knowledge arises. Now the question arises - Is the object of knowledge and idea dependent for its existence upon the mind which knows it? Or is the object a real which exist independently of the knowing mind? Regarding the relation between the knower and the object known there are two main theories - Realism and Idealism.

(According to Realism, an object has independent existence) (It is real not depending on anything else.) (Knowledge is determined by the object) (The relation between knowledge and its object is external and not internal) For Realism, an object exist by its own right without necessarily being an object of knowledge. Realism may be of different types : i) Naive or Direct Realism, ii) Scientific or Critical Realism or Representationalism iii) Neo Realism iv) Neo Critical Realism

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2. What is Naïve Realism ?

OR

What is Direct or Popular Realism ?

Can it explain errors ? Explain critically

Ans: (Naïve Realism is the most fundamental theory of realism.) The external world is real and is directly revealed to us through the senses. According to it, objects of our knowledge exist independently of our mind. They are revealed to us by our senses exactly they are in themselves. The world we live in is an aggregate of many independent objects possessing qualities.

(The existence of objects and their qualities do not depend on any mind.) For being of light of which shines through our sense organs and ~~eluminates~~ illuminates the world as it is in itself. According to Naïve Realism truth consists in direct correspondance between knowledge and Reality. Even in case of memory and indirect knowledge like Inference and Testimony, there is direct contact of knowledge with reality.

The main features of Naïve Realism now stands thus :-

i) As per Naïve Realism there is an external world outside our mind in which the object of knowledge exist.

ii) Naïve Realism upheld the view that

object of knowledge is independent of the knowing mind.

(iii) We obtain knowledge of the external world by means of perception.

Naïve Realism though very popular among the common man is not acceptable from the scientific point of view. This theory cannot explain the phenomenon of wrong knowledge such as illusion, double vision etc. The object of such experience cannot be said to exist as real in the world. They have existence in our mind or ideas.

Whatever we perceive does not depend solely on the nature of object. It also depends on the perceiving mind. The same object may be perceived differently by different people and by the same person at different times.

Moreover, Naïve Realism maintains that the qualities we perceive in object has real existence. But we find that there are some qualities such as colour, sound, taste etc depend for their existence on the perceiving mind. Thus, naïve realism cannot explain all our experience satisfactorily.

3. Discuss or John

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3. Discuss Critical or Scientific Realism or Representationalism as advocated by John Locke.

Ans: John Locke, Father of Modern Empiricism is the advocate of Scientific or Critical Realism. For him all objects are real but all its qualities are not real. (His theory is based on reflection on naive realism.) (For him mind never perceive anything directly. It perceives only through ideas.) (Ideas represents the images of external things.) Ideas and Representations are copies of the qualities of the object which are external to the mind. We can perceive these ideas and not the real thing. Thus, we know the external things through the representation of these ideas. Our knowledge is true in so far as our ideas corresponds to its objects. This epistemological theory of Locke is known as Representational or Copy Theory. Thus, for Locke we know the external object, the ideas and these ideas are the objects. Locke made an important distinction between primary and secondary qualities. Primary qualities are objective qualities which belong to the external things and are indirect, independent of the mind. Primary qualities are real qualities. They are unchangeable, permanent qualities. Qualities like extension, motion, shape, size etc are primary qualities. On

the other hand, Secondary qualities are subjective qualities dependent on the knowing mind. They do not belong to the external things. They exist only in the consciousness of the object and sensations and ideas. Such variable and temporary qualities like colour, taste, smell, sound, temperature etc are secondary qualities. Thus, for Locke ideas of the qualities are the only source of our knowledge. However, for Locke there must be a substance as the support or substratum of the qualities. This substance is unknown and unknowable. For Locke, there are 3 types of substances: Matter, Mind and God.

Locke's theory though consistent of with the scientific thought of his time suffers from the following drawbacks :-

- (i) For Locke our knowledge is true so far as it corresponds to its objects. At the same time he says that the objects are external to the mind and cannot be known directly. If this is so how can we compare our ideas to the objects, because, whenever we try to do this we have ideas and ideas alone.
- (ii) Representationalism is the doctrine of

Epistemological Dualism because it believes in two worlds - the world of mind with ideas and the world of external substances possessing qualities.

- (iii) Locke's theory is half realism and half idealism. Realism in respect of primary qualities and idealism in respect of secondary qualities. Berkeley observed these difficulties in Locke's theory and drew a logical consequence of Locke's distinction between primary and secondary qualities and developed his theory of Idealism.

4. Distinguish between Primary Qualities & Secondary Qualities.

Ans: (The primary qualities are utterly inseparable from the material bodies in all their different sizes and various changes. There are 6 such original or primary qualities, viz; Solidity, Extension, Figure, Rest and Motion, Number. They are constantly found in the body.) The Secondary qualities include colour, sound, taste etc. Locke points out that primary qualities of Solidity, extension etc are found in their objective right. They are really existant wheather there be any person to perceive them or not. But Secondary qualities are totally dependent on Human Subject and their various sense organs. Primary qualities are

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permanant while secondary qualities are variable. Primary qualities are objective in nature while Secondary qualities are Subjective in nature.

5. Critically examine the theory of Neo-Critical Realism.

Ans: According to Neo-Critical Realism, material things are known mediately from the sense data presented by them. They are known by inference from the sense which are presented by them to the mind. The Critical Realists regard perception as a result of the inter relation of 3 factors, a physical object, a physical state and sense data. We know directly the sense data, the content of the perceiving mind which mediate between the mind and the physical object.

Neo Realists has no rational theory of error. It cannot account for illusions and hallucinations. The Neo Critical Realism regards error as ~~there~~ disagreement between sense data and physical objects. The Neo-Critical Realism admits the existence of things ~~exist~~ external to the mind by faith rather than by knowledge. Neo-Critical Realism like Neo-Realism rejects

Subjectivism and Absolute Idealism. Sense data presented to the mind are complexes which reveal the character of an object. The sense data or character complexes are something immediate between the perceiving mind and the physical object. The sense data do not belong to the mind, nor do they belong to the outer object, they are intermediate logical entities.

Criticisms: The doctrine of sense essences or character complexes floating between physical things and mind seem to be mysterious and fanciful. Senses are neither physical nor mental. They are intermediate between. They thus remind us of the so called Neutral entities of the Neo-Realists. We directly know only the sense and infer the existence of physical things from them, we can then doubt the existence of these physical things.

The Neo-Critical Realism unconsciously move towards idealism since they admit the contribution of mind to the perception of physical things. Thus, in knowledge object must depend upon perceiving mind. Solution of the problem of knowledge cannot be idealistic.

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6. What is Idealism? what are its different forms?

Ans: Idealism is an Epistemological theory according to which the existence of an object is dependent on our idea. No object has extramental reality. The relation between the knower and the object known is external and not internal. Idealism may be of 3 types - Subjective Idealism, Transcendental Idealism and Absolute or Objective Idealism.

7. Explain Subjective Idealism.
OR

How does Berkeley developed his Subjective Idealism from Locke's Representationalism? Explain Critically.

Ans: Berkeley is the founder of Idealism in Modern Western Philosophy. His Idealism arises as a logical consequence of the Unpsychological distinction of qualities into primary and secondary made by Locke. According to Locke, Substance is a Hypothetical Seat of qualities some of which are primary in the sense that they exist in things and are independent our condition of them and other Secondary in the sense that they are not in things but in our mind which make and unmake them. Berkeley here pointed

different

out that if Secondary Qualities are what they are by means of perception or idea, the primary qualities are no less depending on the same perception which determines them. A quality whether primary or Secondary to be regarded as such must be cognised as such, so that things which are composed of qualities both primary and Secondary must be regarded as such only when they are perceived as such. In other words the existence of things must be determined by the idea "Esse - Est - Percipi", it means that to be or to exist is to be perceived or known. Formulated in the above term, Berkeley's Idealism may be termed as Subjective Idealism because the world of things as clusters of qualities are ideas and hence the existence of things consist in the idea of mind.

Now if theory is right as things cannot exist unless it is perceived or known, then the continued existence of one Subject is denied by this theory. But Berkeley repudiates this objection. His answer to the objection is that all the objects of the world which are really ideas, endures continuously in the mind of God whether we perceive them or not. ~~Berkeley~~ Berkeley's Subjective

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Idealism has been criticised by diffie schools of realists of the present day by saying that being does not consist in its being perceived as Berkeley supposed. Subjective Idealism reduces the world to the mental states of an individual mind and this is Solipsism. But Solipsism make Social life and inter Subjective Interaction impossible and cannot account for a compound world of objects for all of us.

8. Is Berkeley's Idealism Subjective?

Ans: According to Subjective Idealism, existance of Object of knowledge is dependent for its existance on Individual Mind. Existance of Object is determined by perception of it. Again Objective Idealism holds that object is dependent for its existance on Absolute Mind. For the Objective Idealists the world has an independent existance.

Now if we observe Idealism of Berkeley, it appears that according to Berkeley existance of object is determined by perception. Berkeley in his Idealism holds that there are no such things which are not dependent on our mind for their existance. In his theory he clearly

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holds that along with the world everything is the idea of our consciousness. From this observation Berkeley's Idealism may be recognised as Subjective Idealism.

Again, as Berkeley gives utmost importance on the mind of the knower, in this regard his idealism may be blended as Solipsism. Solipsism is an epistemological or Ontological position that knowledge of anything outside the mind is unjustified.

When the Critics of Berkeley point out the drawbacks of Subjective Idealism, at that time to remove the difficulties of Subjective Idealism Berkeley accepted the idea of Absolute Mind or the idea of God. In this regard he holds that the existence of object depend on mind but the mind on which existence of everything is dependent is not the individual mind but the Absolute Mind or the Mind of God. From this aspect Berkeley's idealism may be blended as Objective Idealism.

From the above discussion it is clear that at the early part of his Idealism Berkeley truly upheld Subjective Idealism, but in the later part when he accepted the notion of the Absolute Mind, his Idealism ~~is~~ take

a turn from Subjective to Objective. But from the point of view of Objective Idealism, whatever is, Berkeley merely touches the spirit of Objective Idealism in his Philosophy of Subjective Idealism. So in the history of Philosophy Berkeley's Idealism is known as Subjective Idealism.

9. Explain Objective Idealism.

Ans: The theory of Objective Idealism was advocated by Hegel. Objective Idealism consists in regarding the ultimate reality as the Absolute Idea or Thought or mind. This Absolute Idea expresses or manifests itself into the world of things or Nature or Mind. The relation between the Absolute Idea and the Nature and the Mind is such that one cannot exist apart from the other. The Absolute Mind is Immanent in nature and Mind as Universal Reason. Thought is reality. The Absolute Thought or Self which is all-inclusive and all-coherent is the fullest Reality. The Absolute Idea is an active, dynamic, spiritual principle that goes on inferring itself according to the dialectical principle through the triad of thesis, anti thesis and Synthesis. The Synthesis

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again give rise to a new triad and that to another triad. The Absolute Thought evolves eternally and finds expression in and ~~the~~ through the valid objects of the world. Hegel says that "Whatever is rational is real, and whatever is real is rational".

Hegel's Objective Idealism reconciles Realism with idealism. According to Hegel, Absolute Idea is the ultimate reality. So, his theory is Idealism, though not Idealism of Berkeleyan type. On the other hand, according to Objective Idealism world of knowledge is quite independent of individual minds and so it is Realism.

But according to Hegel the Objective world is not independent of the Absolute Idea or Thought because the Objective World of mind and nature is the expression of that Absolute Idea or Thought and for this it is Objective Idealism.

So, Objective Idealism of Hegel is a satisfactory theory of reality in comparison with other theories.

10. Distinguish between Realism and Idealism.

Ans. (a) Realism recognises the existence of a world as external to and independent from knowing mind.

That means, according to realism there are two worlds — one is the world of mind and other is the world of objects. But idealism does not recognize the existence of any external world quite independent of the knowing mind. That means, according to idealism the world of mind or spirit is the only reality.

(b) According to realism, the relation of knowledge and its object is only external where as according to idealism, the relation of knowledge and its object is only internal.

(c) According to realism truth lies in correspondence between knowledge and the object of knowledge. But according to idealism truth lies in coherence among different knowledge.

(d) Realism puts more emphasis on the object of knowledge than the knower while Idealism gives more importance to the knower than the object of knowledge.

(e) From epistemological point of view, realism is quite opposite to idealism.

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Short Questions :- (2 Mark)

1. What are the different forms of Realism?
2. Write two basic features of Naive Realism.
3. Why Locke's theory of Realism called Representationalism?
4. Why Locke's Realism is called Scientific Realism?
5. Write any two points of distinction between primary qualities and secondary.
6. Write any two points of distinction between Realism and Idealism.
7. Why is Berkeley Idealism is called Subjective Idealism.

(1 Mark)

- ✓ 1. What is the ultimate reality of according to Hegel?

Ans: Absolute Spirit.

- ✓ 2. What are Character Complexes?

Ans: Character Complexes are something intermediate between the (perceiving mind and the physical object).

- ✓ 3. What are the stages of Dialectical Method?

Ans: 3 stages - Thesis, Anti-thesis and Synthesis.

- ✓ 4. "Whatever is rational is real and

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whatever is real is rational -
Who said this?

Ans: Hegel

5. Who is the advocate of Objective Idealism?

Ans: Hegel

6. Who is the advocate of Neo-Critical Realism?

Ans: Patrick

7. What does 'Esse Est Percipi' mean?

Ans: Existence is Perception.

8. "To be or to exist is to be perceived" - Who said this?

Ans: Berkeley.

9. What does Solipsism mean?

Ans: I and my mental ideas alone exist.

10. Who said that all qualities are Secondary?

Ans: Berkeley.

11. Who is the advocate of Subjective Idealism?

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Ans: Berkeley.

12. The qualities relation said

Ans: John

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18. According to which theory the existence of the external world is independent of the mind? Ans: Realism.
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Ans: Berkeley.

12. "The relation betⁿ the primary qualities and the object is the relation of resemblance." - Who said this?

Ans: John Locke.

18. Locke regards primary qualities as objective and secondary qualities as subjective - Do you agree?

Ans: Yes, I agree.

14. What are the two types of qualities according to Locke?

Ans: Primary and Secondary.

18. Who is the advocate of Scientific realism?

Ans: John Locke.

16. Can Naive Realism explain Illusion, hallucination, Dream?

Ans: NO

18. According to which theory the existence of the external world is mind dependent?

Ans: Idealism.