

Topic: Epistemology and
Metaphysics (Western)

Subject: Philosophy

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2. Q:- What is Realism? Explain critically Naive Realism?

Ans:- The contention of realism is that there can be no knowledge without the existence of object. Knowledge is determined by its object. But the existence of object is not determined by knowledge. In brief, objects exist even if they are not known or if they do not enter into knowledge relation.

Commonsense maintains that the external world consists of things possessing qualities. These things are out there in the world and are revealed to us by our senses exactly as they are in themselves. This is called naive or unreflecting realism of the common man. Naive realism holds that the objects of our knowledge exist independently of all knowledge. The world in which we live and move is an aggregate of many independent objects possessing qualities. Naive

realism holds that our conscious-ness is like a beam of light which shines through our sense-organs and illumines the world as it is in itself. According to Commonsense or Naive realism, truth consists in a direct correspondence between knowledge and reality. When we perceive a red book, the commonsense holds that a red book is simply seen and not that it is perceived through the sensation of red colour.

Criticism: Naive realism cannot explain the phenomena of wrong knowledge as illusion, dream, hallucination, double vision etc. The object of our experience in these phenomena cannot be said to exist as real things in the world. Some of the objects of our experience, therefore, have no independent existence in the external world. These objects exist only in our minds as ideas. Naive realism contends that the qualities we perceive in objects have real existence in the objects. But we find that there are some qualities, viz, colour, taste, sound, touch, smell, which depend for their existence on our mind.