



## Influence of pragmatism and scholasticism on contemporary education development

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### ABSTRACT

The foundation of this study lies in the longstanding debate between practice-oriented, experiential educational approaches (pragmatism) and more traditional, theory-centered methods grounded in deductive logic (scholasticism). This research examines the influence of the philosophical streams of pragmatism and scholasticism on contemporary education. Adopting a qualitative approach, the study employs comparative literature analysis to evaluate the application of these philosophies within the modern educational framework. Findings reveal that pragmatism plays a pivotal role in shaping an educational system that is dynamic, adaptable, and responsive to contemporary societal needs, particularly by linking learning to real-life experiences. Conversely, scholasticism contributes significantly by preserving the value of education founded on deep theoretical comprehension and systematic logic. The synergy between these two philosophical approaches is posited to create a more balanced and holistic curriculum, blending practical and theoretical aspects essential for fostering student competencies in modern education. This research offers a new perspective on curriculum formulation by integrating the strengths of both approaches.

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### ABSTRAK

Latar belakang penelitian ini berakar dari perdebatan panjang antara pendekatan pendidikan yang berorientasi pada praktik dan pengalaman langsung (pragmatisme) dan pendekatan pendidikan yang lebih tradisional berbasis teori dan logika deduktif (scholastisisme). Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh dua aliran filsafat pragmatisme dan scholastisisme terhadap pendidikan kontemporer. Pendekatan penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif, mengadopsi analisis literatur dengan metode komparatif guna mengevaluasi implementasi kedua aliran filsafat dalam konteks sistem pendidikan kontemporer. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penelitian ini menawarkan perspektif baru dalam perumusan kurikulum yang efektif dengan mengintegrasikan kekuatan dari kedua pendekatan. Pragmatisme berperan penting dalam membentuk sistem Pendidikan yang dinamis, fleksibel, dan relevan dengan kebutuhan masyarakat kontemporer, khususnya dalam menghubungkan pembelajaran dengan pengalaman sehari-hari. Di sisi lain, scholastisisme memberikan kontribusi besar dalam mempertahankan pentingnya Pendidikan yang berbasis pada pemahaman teori yang mendalam dan logika yang sistematis. Sinergi antara kedua aliran filsafat ini diyakini mampu menciptakan kurikulum pendidikan yang lebih seimbang dan holistik, memadukan aspek praktis dan teoretis yang esensial bagi pengembangan kemampuan peserta didik di era kontemporer.

**Kata Kunci:** pragmatisme; scholastisisme; pendidikan kontemporer

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## INTRODUCTION

Education is important in preparing individuals to face social, economic, and technological changes in the contemporary era. Over the centuries, education has been influenced by various schools of philosophy that offer different approaches to the learning process (Rahman & Robandi, 2024). The two most prominent schools are pragmatism and scholasticism. Pragmatism, developed by figures such as John Dewey, emphasizes learning through direct experience and practical relevance in everyday life (Wiranata et al., 2021). In contrast, scholasticism, which originated from the medieval philosophical tradition, prioritizes a theory-oriented approach and deductive logic, as promoted by Aristoteles and Thomas Aquinas (Taufik, 2020). Although both emerged in different historical contexts, their relevance persists today, especially in responding to increasingly complex educational challenges. These two approaches significantly contribute to directing the course of education, especially in contemporary education, which requires a balance between practical skills and in-depth theory.

Today's educational challenges are not only related to the mastery of science but also include the development of adaptive thinking skills in line with the demands of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. The debate on the ideal educational approach continues today, especially amid society's increasing need for an education system that can accommodate the demands of the contemporary world of work (Susmita et al., 2023). Pragmatism offers flexibility in responding to changing times and the need for practical skills, while scholasticism remains relevant by offering a deep understanding of logic, theory, and scientific truth. This raises the need for an educational model that focuses on immediate results and prepares learners to think long-term. This debate is becoming increasingly relevant in developing a holistic and balanced curriculum that encourages mastery of technical skills and critical and analytical thinking.

Previous research has discussed the application of pragmatism and scholasticism separately in education. For example, Dewey in 1916 in his book entitled *"Democracy and Education"*, emphasized that education should be relevant to real life and allow learners to learn through experience (Falah, 2017). This approach has proven effective in a dynamic and vocational education system where learners are invited to engage directly in practical situations and solve real-world problems. This experiential approach encourages greater learner engagement so that learners can see the direct relevance of the material learned to life. However, this approach is sometimes criticized for de-emphasizing deep theoretical learning.

On the other hand, scholasticism has been studied in a more theoretical and academic context of education. For example, Maritain in 1943 in his book titled *"Education at the Crossroads"*, underlined the importance of education based on in-depth theoretical knowledge that allows learners to achieve higher understanding through logical deduction. Though this approach is often criticized for placing less emphasis on practical applications, learners trained through the scholastic approach tend to have strong analytical skills that are crucial in academic fields such as science and mathematics, as Tamer et al. argue in 2023 in their work *"Education at the Crossroad: Research and Reflections"*. In the context of higher education, the scholastic approach is often the basis for building a solid and deep scientific foundation, especially in scientific research.

However, few studies have directly compared or evaluated the integration of these two schools of philosophy in the context of contemporary education. The synergy between the two approaches is considered important, but previous research has not detailed how this integration can be realized in the contemporary curriculum. This creates a valuable research gap, especially in exploring how these two approaches can complement each other in creating a more adaptive and comprehensive education system. This absence suggests the need to explore the integration of pragmatism and scholasticism to

create a more balanced and effective education system. Based on the previous literature review, this research offers scientific novelty by exploring the balance between pragmatism and scholasticism approaches in contemporary education. The novelty of this research lies in its attempt to integrate the two schools of philosophy in a more holistic and flexible curriculum development framework. Thus, this research offers theoretical ideas and practical contributions that can be implemented at various levels of education.

This approach offers a new perspective on shaping a curriculum relevant to the world of work and develops learners' analytical and critical thinking skills. The results of this study are expected to be an important reference for educators and policymakers in designing a curriculum that is adaptive to changing times while maintaining deep academic values. This is expected to answer the need for an education system that can face the challenges of the contemporary era, so that practical and theoretical skills are equally valued.

The main issue in this research is whether integrating pragmatism and scholasticism can create a more balanced and effective educational approach in the contemporary educational context. In addition, this research also hypothesizes that combining these two philosophical schools can improve the quality of education by providing learners with relevant practical skills and critical and analytical thinking abilities.

This article discusses how the relationship between pragmatism and scholasticism can support educational innovation, especially in responding to the challenges of globalization and digital technology. This article aims to evaluate the application of pragmatism in contemporary education, analyze the role of scholasticism in theory- and logic-based education, and examine possible synergies between these two schools in creating a more holistic and balanced education system. It also aims to provide practical recommendations for curriculum development that integrate key aspects of both schools of philosophy to improve the quality of education in the contemporary era.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Pragmatism in Education

Pragmatism, a school of philosophy pioneered by John Dewey, emphasizes the importance of hands-on experience in the learning process. In his 1916 work *“Democracy and Education”* Dewey argued that education should be relevant to real life and provide practical skills that learners can apply in a social context. The pragmatism approach in education encourages learners to adapt quickly to changes and to be innovative and creative in facing upcoming challenges (Ankesa, 2021).

Previous research explained that the Merdeka Curriculum adopts the principles of pragmatism through an experiential learning approach in its implementation. This allows teachers and students to independently explore, develop creativity, and formulate innovative solutions following real needs and challenges (Fathurohim, 2023). The approach encourages learners' involvement in the learning process that is not only conceptual but also practical, creating a balance between practical and theoretical aspects of curriculum development.

Whitehead, in 2018, in *“The Aims of Education”* emphasized the importance of connecting knowledge with practical application. He stated that learning that only contains theory without application can make learners lose interest and relevance in education. Furthermore, Project-Based Learning (PBL), which is based on pragmatism, helps learners understand the material and develop soft skills such as collaboration and communication (Maida, 2011). Experiential learning methods, such as collaborative projects and case studies, increase learner motivation and develop critical and analytical thinking skills. Pragmatism-focused learning allows learners to be actively involved in the learning process and connects theoretical concepts with learners' practical experiences, thus improving retention and

understanding of the material taught. Thus, pragmatism is a strong foundation for designing a dynamic and adaptive curriculum in contemporary education (Burhan, 2023).

### **Scholasticism in Education**

Scholasticism comes from the medieval philosophical tradition, emphasizing the importance of logic and deduction in the search for truth. Scholasticism considers that deep and analytical reasoning is the key to achieving substantial understanding. In the context of education, this approach encourages learners to master theory before they can apply that knowledge in practice. Maritain, in his 1943 work *“Education at the Crossroads”*, argued that education should focus on the search for truth and deep knowledge (Marto, 2016).

On the other hand, Finnis in 2011 in his work *“Natural Law and Natural Rights”* highlighted the relevance of modern scholasticism in education, especially in developing critical thinking in law and ethics. In addition, scholasticism can strengthen students' mathematical logic competence, especially at the high school level (Maslihah et al., 2020). The scholasticism approach in education can improve learners' critical thinking skills and deepen their understanding of complex material. Teaching methods that prioritize the development of logic and deduction can help learners understand and solve complex problems in everyday life. Thus, scholasticism provides an important framework for learners to build strong analytical abilities and hone cognitive skills (Taufik, 2020).

### **Integration of Pragmatism and Scholasticism**

Recognizing the strengths of each school, this research argues that an ideal education should combine elements from both pragmatism and scholasticism. By integrating the flexibility and practical relevance of pragmatism and the strong theoretical foundations of scholasticism, education can produce learners who are prepared to face real-world challenges and possess the analytical and critical abilities necessary to understand the complexity of the situations they face. This integrative approach has been tested in the Finnish education model (Sahlberg, 2007). They found that combining experiential learning with theoretical logic reinforcement improved learning outcomes and instilled confidence in learners in dealing with real-world problems. Learners with this integrative approach tend to have better academic performance than learners with approaches that only focus on one of the methods (Mustafa et al., 2024).

This combined approach can produce more adaptive and innovative learners while strengthening their critical thinking skills. The research also shows that integrating these two approaches in the curriculum results in a more holistic learning environment where learners can learn to put theory into practice while understanding the theoretical underpinnings of their actions. Thus, combining pragmatism and scholasticism in education provides direct benefits for learners and a greater contribution toward developing a more intelligent and responsive society (Boiliu et al., 2022).

## **METHODS**

This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method to analyze the influence of pragmatism and scholasticism in education. Based on Sugiyono's view in his work *“Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D”*, qualitative research does not rely on statistical procedures or numerical calculations. However, it focuses on revealing phenomena thoroughly and contextually through data collection in a natural environment. This approach places the researcher as the main instrument in the data collection process, thus enabling analysis that emphasizes the process and meaning from the

perspective of the research subject. According to Wedes et al., the desk research process is done through an in-depth literature review, incorporating various relevant topics. Literature sources include journals, books, dictionaries, documents, magazines, and other references, without requiring direct data collection. To ensure credibility, the documents and texts used must be authentic. It is recommended that data collection results be documented, including photos, videos, and notes recorded systematically and gradually to produce comprehensive and reliable data (Haryono et al., 2024).

A qualitative approach was chosen as it allows the researcher to explore and understand educational phenomena in depth and provide a rich context regarding the two schools of philosophy. The research data sources consisted of relevant scholarly articles on the philosophy of education, especially those that examine the basic principles of pragmatism and scholasticism in contemporary education. The data were analyzed using a comparative approach to evaluate these two schools of philosophy in their application to contemporary education. Comparative analysis identified similarities and differences between pragmatism and scholasticism in educational goals, teaching methods, and curriculum development. The data analysis procedure includes literature data collection, comparative analysis, and conclusion testing.

### **Literature Data Collection**

In this stage, the researcher collected literature of scholarly articles related to pragmatism and scholasticism, including classic works and recent research. We conducted a systematic search based on relevant keywords and used inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure the quality of the data collected.

### **Comparative Analysis**

Once the data has been collected, the researcher analyzes it by categorizing the relevant information. This approach involves an in-depth examination of each school's arguments and the historical and philosophical context in which each school developed. The result of this analysis will highlight the contributions and relevance of both schools in creating an effective education system.

### **Testing Conclusion**

The final stage in data analysis, especially for qualitative data, is conclusion drawing and verification. At this stage, the obtained results of the analysis are reviewed to ensure their validity and reliability. This process involves testing whether the patterns, relationships, or findings identified in the data are truly consistent with the facts or based on subjective interpretations. In addition, verification is also carried out by comparing the results of the analysis with literature, theory, or additional data to strengthen the conclusions drawn.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Application of Pragmatism in Education**

As one of the schools of educational philosophy proposed by John Dewey, pragmatism emphasizes the importance of direct experience and learning that is relevant to real life. In education, pragmatism aims to help learners develop the skills to deal with a changing world (Ali, 2012). In contrast to traditional approaches emphasizing memorization and theory, pragmatism focuses on teaching that can be

applied directly in everyday life. The basic principle of pragmatism is that learning should be interactive and dynamic so that learners can experiment, experience, and solve real problems.

The following table presents the findings of this research. **Table 1** summarizes the various viewpoints of the authors regarding the application of pragmatism in education.

**Table 1.** Pragmatism in Education

No.	Author Name and Year	Journal Title	Conclusion of Article Content
1.	(Argyanti <i>et al.</i> , 2023)	Implementation of educational technology for the teacher profession in vocational high schools	Pragmatism in education creates a learning system that is relevant and adaptive to the needs of modern society. This approach emphasizes real-life experiences to help learners develop the practical skills, critical thinking, and adaptability required in the dynamic world of work, making it highly relevant in the age of technology and globalization.
2.	(Arifin <i>et al.</i> , 2021)	Aliran-aliran filsafat pendidikan Islam dan implikasinya terhadap pendidikan islam era kontemporer	The article concludes that applying pragmatism in Islamic education is important to create an approach that is relevant and adaptive to modern challenges. This approach not only reinforces religious values but also develops practical skills and critical thinking in learners, producing graduates who are balanced between religious understanding and practical abilities, according to the needs of the times.
3.	(Mashudi, 2021)	Pembelajaran modern: Membekali peserta didik keterampilan abad ke-21	Pragmatism's application in education, through experiential and technology-based approaches, is essential for developing 21st-century skills. This approach prepares learners for global challenges with critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, making them better prepared for the real world.
4.	(Yovanda <i>et al.</i> , 2020)	Penerapan teknologi imersif pada Axioo Class Program di jenjang SMK	Case studies in automotive vocational schools show that practical learning helps learners understand how theory is applied in practice. The application of pragmatism in education through immersive technology and Smart Classroom, such as in the Axioo Class program in SMK, increases the relevance of learning to industry needs. Technology and experiential teaching enable learners to develop practical skills ready to be applied in the world of work, making them more competent and in line with 21st-century skills demands.
5.	(Satiri <i>et al.</i> , 2024)	Filsafat pendidikan pragmatisme sebuah analisis tentang teori pragmatisme dalam pendidikan	This article concludes that pragmatism in education, through experiential learning and practical benefits, equips learners with critical thinking and adaptive skills relevant to real life. This philosophy is widely applied in various fields, such as science, language, and crisis management, positively impacting the quality of education in Indonesia.

Source: Research (2024)

The table above illustrates the various applications of pragmatism in education from various perspectives put forward by the authors. Overall, the pragmatism approach is an important foundation in building an education system that is responsive to the needs of modern society. The development of practical skills and adaptability of learners in the work environment through vocational education and the use of immersive technology in smart classrooms is relevant in the era of digitalization (Argyanti et al., 2023; Yovanda et al., 2020). This approach aligns with the principles of pragmatism, which emphasize the importance of hands-on experience as the basis for developing adaptive skills relevant to the real world (Ankesa, 2021).

The context of pragmatism in Islamic education integrates religious values and practical skills to produce graduates who can meet the needs of the modern world without leaving religious principles. The combination of religious values with practical skills reflects the pragmatic idea that education must be relevant to the social and cultural context of students, while forming a strong moral character, following Kolb's opinion in 1984 in his work *"Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Learning and Development"*. Developing 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving, is important through experiential and technology-based approaches (Mashudi, 2021). This is in line with the opinion of Lave and Wenger in their work *"Situated Learning: Legitimate Peripheral Participation"* that pragmatism views the development of these skills as a key element to prepare individuals for global challenges with experiential and contextualized learning strategies. The broader application of pragmatism in various fields, including science, crisis management, and mental health, shows the positive impact of pragmatism on the quality of education in Indonesia. This approach emphasizes the importance of practical relevance-based learning so that learners can connect knowledge with real applications in various aspects of life, as Piaget argued in 1972 in his work *"The Psychology of the Child"*.

Overall, the application of pragmatism in education not only provides direct benefits through practice-based learning and prepares learners to be adaptive and creative individuals in the face of change. In contemporary education, this approach is becoming increasingly relevant to address labor market needs that emphasize flexibility, problem-solving, and project-based skills. This confirms the pragmatic principle that practice-based learning strengthens theoretical understanding and prepares learners to face dynamic situations (Mashudi, 2021). This research supports pragmatism as a solution to improve the quality of education that is relevant to current and future needs (Fitra, 2023).

The application of pragmatism plays an important role in creating relevant and adaptive approaches to learning, preparing learners for the dynamics of work and everyday life. Each author asserts that pragmatism's value supports not only the development of practical skills, critical thinking, and adaptability but also the relevance of education to social, economic, and cultural needs. As such, pragmatism serves as an important foundation for developing individuals suited to the demands of the modern era.

### **Application of Scholasticism in Education**

Scholasticism, as a school of educational philosophy that developed from the thoughts of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, places greater emphasis on logic, deduction, and deep theoretical understanding. In education, scholasticism emphasizes mastering the theory before students plunge into practice. The main principle of scholasticism is that knowledge must be based on rational and systematic thinking so that learners are trained to understand concepts in depth and think critically about various problems faced (Zega, 2023).

The following table displays the findings of this research. **Table 2** summarizes the authors' various perspectives regarding the application of pragmatism in education.

**Table 2.** Scholasticism in Education

No.	Author Name and Year	Title of Article/Book	Conclusion of Article Content
1.	(Priyanti, 2019)	Pembelajaran Inovatif Abad 21	Scholasticism in education emphasizes teaching methods based on logical reasoning and in-depth critical analysis. This approach strengthens deductive thinking skills through structured discussions and the study of classical texts, thus forming a strong intellectual foundation, especially in fields that require deep theoretical understanding and analytical skills, such as law, theology, and philosophy.
2.	(Ayudia et al., 2023)	Pengembangan Kurikulum (Buku)	Scholasticism in education focuses on learning based on logic and deep theoretical understanding, developing learners' deductive reasoning ability, intellectual discipline, and moral character. This philosophy retains its relevance in fields that require a solid theoretical foundation as well as sharp analytical skills, forming individuals who are prepared to face intellectual challenges in a comprehensive manner.
3.	(Shagena, 2019)	Peran Filsafat Idealisme Serta Implementasinya Pada Pendidikan	This article concludes that scholasticism in education is important in developing learners' analytical and logical skills through deep deductive learning. This approach emphasizes critical and systematic understanding, especially in fields that require intensive analysis, such as theology and philosophy. Thus, it supports a curriculum that emphasizes a scholarly foundation and intellectual integrity.

Source: Research (2024)

The table above illustrates the application of scholasticism in education from various authors' perspectives. Scholasticism is important in strengthening learners' deductive and logical thinking skills, primarily through teaching methods based on deep reasoning, which provides a solid intellectual foundation in law, theology, and philosophy (Priyanti, 2019). Ayudia et al., in their 2023 book "*Pengembangan Kurikulum*" expanded this perspective to include moral character building and intellectual discipline as an integral part of the scholasticism approach, emphasizing the importance of this philosophy in preparing learners for intellectual challenges through strong theoretical foundations and analytical skills. The role of scholasticism in building a curriculum based on critical understanding and intellectual integrity is especially relevant in disciplines that require in-depth analysis (Shagena, 2019).

Leclercq, in 1982, in his work "*The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: A Study of Monastic Culture*" added that the scholasticism approach not only focuses on high-level cognitive abilities such as analysis and synthesis, but also encourages character building through deductive thinking exercises, academic discussions, and scientific debates. This view is in line with Thomas Aquinas' concept of "*fides et ratio*" (faith and reason), which shows how integrating deductive logic with theological principles is an important cornerstone of scholasticism-based education (Melé & Fontrodona, 2017). This approach is also relevant for theoretical teaching and comprehensively preparing learners for intellectual challenges in various disciplines that demand critical thinking and deep conceptual understanding. In addition, this philosophy is consistent with Bloom's taxonomy, developed in 1956 and described in a work entitled "*Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Educational Goals. Handbook I: Cognitive Domain*". The taxonomy emphasizes higher-order cognitive skills such as analysis, evaluation, and synthesis in developing in-depth education. Overall, these articles emphasize that scholasticism plays

a central role in shaping learners' deductive, logical, and analytical thinking skills and supporting the formation of moral character and intellectual discipline.

### **Integration of Pragmatism and Scholasticism**

The integration of two primary philosophical schools, pragmatism and scholasticism, offers an innovative solution to improve the effectiveness of contemporary education. Both present complementary approaches, where pragmatism provides flexibility and practical relevance, while scholasticism is a deep theoretical foundation. Pragmatism, which emphasizes hands-on experience and practical application, allows learners to connect learning to real life. In contrast, scholasticism, focusing on deductive logic and systematization of knowledge, supports the formation of learners' analytical and critical mindsets. The integration of these two approaches can create an education that is both relevant and academically robust, to produce learners who adapt to the changing times while having a deep understanding (Nuriyah et al., 2021; Wasitohadi, 2012).

The advantage of this integration lies in the resulting balance between exploration-based learning and instruction-based learning. In Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, for example, pragmatism encourages learners to solve problems through hands-on experiments. However, without the strong theoretical basis that scholasticism offers, learners may only understand applications without delving into the underlying principles. Scholasticism ensures that learners know the "how" and the "why", making learning more meaningful and, in this case, integrating pragmatism and scholasticism results in a curriculum that can balance the need for mastery of practical skills with deep theoretical understanding (Surahman, 2024).

In addition, this integration provides significant benefits in the humanities. For example, scholasticism helps learners construct logical and systematic arguments in philosophy and literature. Conversely, pragmatism directs learners to apply that understanding in real social and cultural contexts. The result is learners who can think critically while connecting the theory with the social dynamics around them. Thus, this integration-based education produces academically intelligent individuals and is adaptive to real-world challenges (Tholani, 2013).

However, the challenges in implementing this integration cannot be ignored. One of the main obstacles is the need for reforms in learning and evaluation methods. Teachers often struggle to combine these two approaches in a balanced way, especially if they have not been trained to do so. An overly pragmatic education can overlook the importance of mastering fundamental concepts, while an overly theoretical approach tends to lack relevance to learners' practical needs. Therefore, training for educators is key to the success of this integration. Teachers must be equipped to design lessons that blend practical exploration with theoretical teaching (Topan, 2021; Mubarak et al., 2021).

From a policy perspective, this integration requires strong support from education policymakers. Curriculum reform is an important step to ensure that both approaches are applied equally across all levels of education. For example, in the national curriculum, there needs to be room for developing practical skills relevant to the needs of the contemporary world of work, while ensuring a deep mastery of theory. In addition, education policy should also include a comprehensive training program for teachers, so that they can implement the integration of pragmatism and scholasticism in learning. Teachers must be trained to recognize when to use a pragmatic approach, when to apply scholasticism, and how to effectively combine the two (Argyanti et al., 2023; Dwipratama, 2023).

Previous research has shown that a pragmatic approach to education can improve learners' creativity and problem-solving skills. Learners who learn through hands-on experience tend to be better prepared to face real-world challenges. However, without strong theoretical support, pragmatic learning

outcomes are often superficial. In contrast, while capable of shaping critical and analytical thinking, scholastic approaches tend to be less relevant to practical applications. As recent research has shown, integrating these two approaches yields more balanced results. Learners are not only able to solve problems but can also explain the theoretical principles behind their chosen solutions. In this context, the integration of pragmatism and scholasticism creates an educational model that is more comprehensive and relevant to the needs of the times (Burhan, 2023; Piliانو et al., 2023; Yuliyanti et al., 2023).

In vocational education, this integration results in significant improvements in learners' technical and analytical skills. For example, learners who learn digital technology through a pragmatic approach can use the tools and understand the theoretical concepts behind the technology they use. Research shows that learners who learn through these two approaches more effectively complete technical tasks with a deep understanding. However, implementing this integration requires changes in education policy, including curriculum development and teacher training (Chaeratunnisa et al., 2024).

In humanities education, this integration offers a new approach that enriches learning. Scholasticism helps learners understand abstract concepts, such as ethics and aesthetics, while pragmatism encourages them to apply these concepts in everyday life. In this way, learners not only learn the theory but also how the theory is relevant to real-life experiences. Previous research shows that this approach improves learners' ability to think critically and make wise decisions in social and cultural contexts (Tholani, 2013).

This research challenges the traditional view that separates experience-based education (pragmatism) from theory-based education (scholasticism). Instead, it offers an integration model where these two approaches complement each other. The theoretical implication is that education need not choose between providing practical skills or theoretical foundations but can adopt both in a balanced way. This model creates a more flexible education system, where learners are trained to think critically while adapting to real-world changes (Mashudi, 2021; Wasitohadi, 2012).

On the practical side, the implications of this research are very relevant for curriculum development. A curriculum integrating pragmatism and scholasticism can help learners holistically develop skills and knowledge. In STEM education, for example, learners are trained to solve problems through hands-on experiments (pragmatism) while learning the underlying scientific principles (scholasticism). In this way, learners have technical skills and deep analytical abilities. Such a curriculum enables learners to face the challenges of the contemporary era more confidently and competitively (Surahman, 2024).

Another implication of this study is the need for reform in teacher training. Teachers need to be trained to integrate experiential learning with theory-based learning. This training should include developing skills to use varied teaching methods, such as theoretical discussions, field experiments, and problem-based projects. Well-trained teachers will more effectively prepare learners to face real-world challenges while ensuring they have a strong theoretical foundation (Argyanti et al., 2023; Dwipratama, 2023).

In addition, education policy should also support the integration of pragmatism and scholasticism in learning. This can be done by encouraging the use of multidisciplinary approaches in the curriculum and providing space for the development of practical skills relevant to real life. National curriculum reform also needs to ensure that these two approaches are applied at all levels of education, from primary to higher education. This policy will help create an education system that is more responsive to the needs of learners in the era of globalization (Mashudi, 2021; Burhan, 2023).

Integrating pragmatism and scholasticism in contemporary education offers a more balanced, responsive, and effective approach. By integrating these two approaches, the education system

produces academically intelligent learners and enables them to face real-world challenges confidently. This research contributes significantly by offering an integration model beyond previous studies that tend to isolate the two approaches. In the long run, the results of this study can guide practical improvements in curriculum design, teacher training, and education policy reforms that are more relevant to today's challenges (Susmita et al., 2023; Nuriyah et al., 2021; Wasitohadi, 2012).

## CONCLUSION

Applying pragmatism in contemporary education provides significant benefits in building learning systems that are relevant and adaptive to social and economic change. Pragmatism, with its focus on hands-on experience and practical relevance, is proven to enhance learners' practical skills and adaptability to the demands of the dynamic world of work. On the other hand, scholasticism plays an important role in education by emphasizing logical reasoning and deep theoretical understanding. This theory- and logic-based approach strengthens learners' intellectual foundation, shaping the critical thinking skills needed to understand complex and abstract concepts.

The synergy between pragmatism and scholasticism can create a more holistic and balanced education system. The integration of these two approaches provides applicable learning and conceptual depth, which ultimately supports the development of learners' competencies in the modern era. Based on these findings, the article recommends curriculum development that combines aspects of practical experience with systematic theoretical learning, resulting in graduates who can adapt while having a solid knowledge base. This integration is expected to improve the quality of education, making learners better prepared to face global challenges while maintaining intellectual integrity in their learning process.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest related to the publication of this article. The authors confirm that the data and content of the article are free from plagiarism.

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