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Role of Educator according to Plato

In Plato's plan of education, the educator is considered to have the greatest importance. He is like the torch bearer who leads a man, lying in a dark cave, out of the darkness into the bright light of the outside world. His task is to bring the man out of the darkness of the cave into the light of the day. He is thus the guide.

In his methods of teaching Plato believes imitation to be the greatest importance, for he realizes that the child learns a great deal through imitation. He will acquire the behaviour of the people among whom he is made to live. Hence, keeping in mind the status of the child, he should be made to live among people from whom he can learn good habits and avoid bad ones.

Innovation in Education

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Plato's theory of Education is truly innovative. He improved upon the current Athenian practice. He was in the view for giving the same type of education to both boys and girls. He believed that there was no difference between the native capacities of boys and girls. He felt that the state was being deprived of services of half of the population by denying the education and the rights of citizenship to women. He advocated women emancipation and equal education for them along with men. The women were to be eligible to the same offices as men.

