

B.A. 6TH SEM
PAPER -DSE -3

Unit –II

Hume's problem of Induction

. D. Hume problem of induction highlight the challenge of justifying induction reasoning which is making

Induction relies two fundamental principles viz. the law of the uniformity of nature and the law of causation. Induction seeks to establish the material truth of universal real proposition. The premises of induction of induction are derived from experience.

Justify the assumption that the future will resemble the past because this inference itself relies on inductive reasoning. Therefore, we have no rational basis for expecting that patterns observed in the past will in the future, which undermines the logical foundations of scientific and everyday reasoning based on experience. For example, just because the sun has risen everyday in the past does not logically generalization based on particular observations.

Hume argued that we cannot rationally guarantee it will rise tomorrow. He claimed that this belief is bases on habit or custom rather than logical certainty.

The law of causation states that every event has a cause. The uniformity states that nature is uniform the same cause produces the same effect under similar conditions. In experience we observe particular cases of that and find that there is something in humanity that causes of death and find that there is something in humanity that causes mortality. This result is extended to other similar cases on the philosopher, saw a problem for induction in this assumption. He posed the question: how do we form conclusions about matters of fact that we have not yet observed? Hume said that previous experiences play a part in the formation of such knowledge. He claimed that out of the past experience we arrive at opinions about the unobserved by induction. Assumption that same cause will produce the same effect under similar circumstances in all places and at all times.

Uniformity of nature an problem of induction

Induction has to rely upon assumption; that the future will uniformly follow the past . For example, we assume that the sun will rise tomorrow as it has risen everyday in the past. This kind of assumption forms the backbone for any kinds of induction.

Next Hume asked what reason does new have to place faith in uniformity of nature ? How do we know that uniformity of nature will hold in future? He argued that we have no good reason at all. We cannot settle this question by direct observation.

Hume conclude d that there is no non –circular , good season for us to feel justified about using induction. Of course, Hume does not urge us to reject induction . He point is that we can have rational beliefs about unobserved matter by induction, even when we cannot provide any conclusive reason for it. Thus ‘believe’ is an important lesion .

Some contemporary thinkers that it makes to discuss induction. They usually points to Hume’s problem of induction. But the study of the principles underlying induction is regarded as the pre- requisite for solving many scientific and philosophical problems. I