

# PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERSTANDING OF EDUCATION

**“Education without Philosophy is blind  
&  
Philosophy without Education is invalid”**

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# Philosophy

- Greek word *philos* + *sophia*:- "love of wisdom"
- The study of general and fundamental problems (existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. )

- **Some philosophical questions :**

Is it possible to know anything and to prove it?

What is most real ?

**Some more practical and concrete questions such as:**

Is there a best way to live ?

Is it better to be just or unjust ?

Do humans have free will?

- History :- (Philosophy:- any body of knowledge).
- Aristotle to the 19th century:- Natural Philosophy:- astronomy, medicine and physics.
- In the modern era:- different separate parts academic disciplines, including psychology, sociology, linguistics and economics etc

# Education

- Process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits.
- Educational methods:- storytelling, discussion, experimental, lecture, demonstration etc.
- Education takes place under the guidance of educators, but learners may also educate themselves.
- Education:- formal, informal and non-formal.
- Methodology = pedagogy.
- Stages:- preschool or kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and then college, university, or apprenticeship
- Right to education:- August, 2009

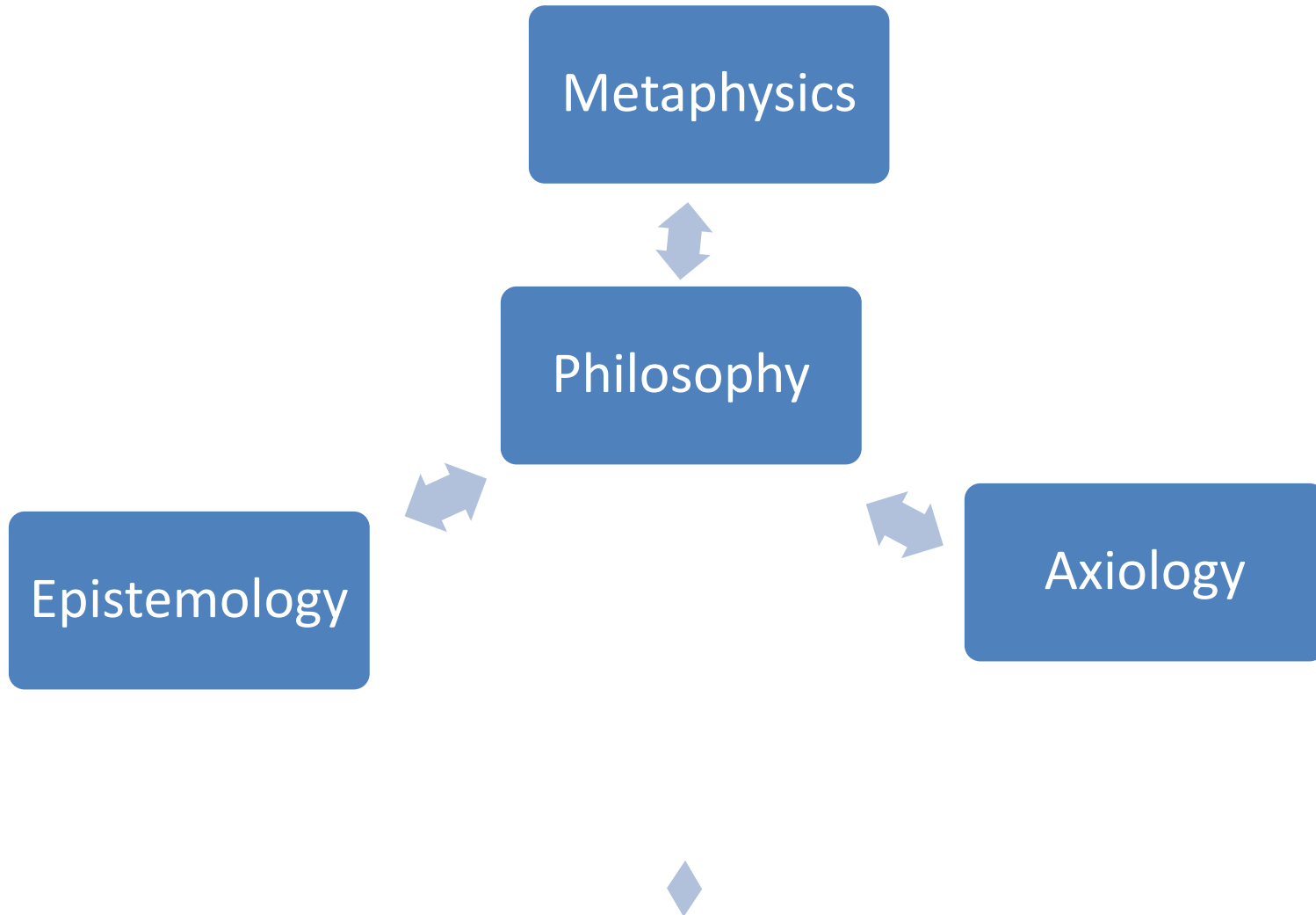
# Philosophy of education

- Application of philosophy to the problem of education
- The philosophical study of education
- It may be either the philosophy of the process of education or the philosophy of the discipline of education.
- It may be part of the discipline in the sense of being concerned with the aims, forms, methods, or results of the process of educating or being educated
- Philosophy of education can also be understood not as an academic discipline but as a normative educational theory (specific metaphysical, epistemological, and axiological assumptions)

# Educational Philosophy

- An educational philosophy is a personal statement of a teacher's guiding principles i.e. about education-related issues, such as:
  - how student learning and potential are most effectively maximized ?
  - the role of educators in the classroom, school, community, and society.
- It is a unique set of principles and ideals of a teacher with which he comes to the classroom, that affects student performance.
- Tenets for self-reflection, professional growth, and sharing with the larger school community.
- A teacher should have the highest of expectations for each of his students. This maximizes the positive benefits that come naturally with any self-fulfilling prophecy

# Branches of Philosophy



# Metaphysics (तत्त्वमीमांसा)

## ➤ **Meaning**

- Branch of philosophy responsible for the study of existence.
- It answers the question "**What is?**"
- It explains everything that exists, as well as the nature of existence itself.
- It says whether the world is real, or merely an illusion.
- It is a fundamental view of the world around us.

## ➤ **Importance**

- Metaphysics is the foundation of philosophy.
- We would be helpless to deal with reality without an explanation of the world around us. We could not feed ourselves, or act to preserve our lives.
- The degree to which our metaphysical worldview is correct is the degree to which we are able to comprehend the world, and act accordingly.
- Without this firm foundation, all knowledge becomes suspect. Any flaw in our view of reality will make it more difficult to live.

## ➤ **key elements of a rational metaphysics**

- The world around us is real having a specific nature. It must be consistent to that nature.
- A proper metaphysical worldview must aim to understand reality correctly.
- The physical world exists, and everything has a specific nature.
- When different entities interact, they do so according to the nature of both.
- Every action has a cause and an effect.
- Causality is the means by which change occurs, but the change occurs via a specific nature.

# Epistemology (ज्ञान-मीमांसा )

## ➤ **Meaning**

- It is the study of our **method of acquiring knowledge**.
- It answers the question, "**How do we know?**"
- It encompasses the nature of concepts, the constructing of concepts, the validity of the senses, logical reasoning, as well as thoughts, ideas, memories, emotions, and all things mental.
- It is concerned with how our minds are related to reality, and whether these relationships are valid or invalid.

## ➤ **Importance**

- Epistemology is the explanation of how we think.
- It is needed in order to use and obtain knowledge of the world around us.
- To determine the true or false we have to determine a proper method of evaluation.
- Without epistemology, we can't think. We would not be able to distinguish truth from error
- The degree to which our epistemology is correct is the degree to which we could understand reality, and the degree to which we could use that knowledge to promote our lives and goals.

## ➤ **key elements of a Epistemology**

- Our senses are valid, and the only way to gain information about the world.
- Reason is our method of gaining knowledge, and acquiring understanding.
- Logic is our method of maintaining consistency within our set of knowledge.
- Objectivity is our means of associating knowledge with reality to determine its validity.
- Concepts are abstracts of specific details of reality, or of other abstractions.



# Axiology (मूल्यमीमांसा)

(Ethics (आचार विचार) + Esthetics (सौंदर्यशास्त्र))

(Truth, Beauty and Goodness)

## ➤ Meaning

- Axiology is the philosophical study of value.
- It is the collective term for ethics and aesthetics
- It depend crucially on notions of worth
- It is similar to value theory.
- **Ethics** investigates the concepts of "**right**" and "**good**" in individual and social conduct.
- **Aesthetics** studies the concepts of "**beauty**" and "**harmony.**"

## ➤ Importance

- Ethics is a requirement for human life.
- Any flaw in our ethics will reduce our ability to be successful in our endeavors.
- Art has existed through all of recorded human history.
- It is unique to humans because of our unique form of thinking.

## ➤ Key elements of Axiology

- Standard of value to which all goals and actions can be compared to.
- Our lives are an end in themselves, and that sacrifice is not only not necessary, but destructive.
- Art is a selective recreation of reality. Its purpose is to concretize an abstraction to bring an idea or emotion within the grasp of the observer.
- Selective recreation, with the selection process depending on the value judgments of the creator.

# Idealism (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Gandhi Ji, Vivekananda)

- Ideas and ideals
- Idea:- Ultimate supremacy
- Idea + Mind + Thoughts = Reality
- Nature = Material world= Untrue and Myth = Destructible = Thought Process
- Idealism = Spiritualism
- Ideal = Quality of perfection
- True Reality = Mental Character
- Things are Real only when they are perceived by our mind

# Idealism and Aims of Education

- Self-realization
- Spiritual Development
- Preparation for holy life
- Development of Intelligence and Rationality
- Cultivation of Moral Values
- Conservation, Promotion and Transmission of Culture
- Development of Physical Health

# Idealism and Curriculum

- More emphasis on thoughts, feelings, ideals and values than to the child and his activities.
- This firmly holds that curriculum should be concerned with the whole humanity and its experience.
- Activities :- Intellectual, Spiritual, Moral, Aesthetic, Religious
- Values:- Truth, Beauty and Goodness
- Subjects:- Literature, History, Art, Music, and Poetry together with other humanities and secondary place to scientific subjects.

# Idealism (Continue.....)

**Teacher:-** Role model

**School:-** A place where the capacities of logical thinking, reasoning and evaluating of the child are progressively sublimated & developed by the teacher

**Methods of Teaching:** No specific method

Socrates:- Question Answer

Plato:- Discourse Method

Aristotle:- Inductive- deductive

Herbert:- Instruction method

Froebel:- Play-way method

# Naturalism (Jean, Jacques, Rousseau, Darwin, Bacon)

- Nature alone:- Ultimate reality
- Senses:- gate ways for knowledge
- Nature:- Physical:- Material world
  - Mechanical:- Man is a Machine
  - Biological:- Big Bang theory (Survival of the fittest)
- No reality is beyond nature
- Doesn't believe in sentimentalism, spiritualism and supernaturalism
- May be termed as “Materialism”
- Naturalism is not science but an assertion about science
- It is the assertion that scientific knowledge is final
- Tools:- experience, reason and science.

# Naturalism and Aims of Education

- Self expression
- Struggle for existence
- Education for adjustment
- Autonomous development of individual
- Education according to the nature of child

# Naturalism and Curriculum

- No rigid or fixed curriculum
- According to the psychology of the child
- Helpful in self preservation
- Natural settings
- Stress on physical and health education
- Subjects:
  - Basic Sciences:- Phy., Chem., Bio. Etc.
  - Subsidiary Subjects:- Language, Literature



# Naturalism and Curriculum

- Teacher:-**
- No teacher is required
  - Nature is a good Teacher
  - Teacher is only to observe

- Schooling:-**
- No place for school
  - Free environment for child
  - No need for extra discipline

## **Methods of Teaching**

Learning by doing

Learning through experiences

Learning through observation

Experimentation

# Pragmatism (John Dewey, Kilpatrick, Williams James )

- Principle of Utility/usefulness
- Man- Supreme
- No God, no spiritualism
- Spiritual principles changes according to the time, situations, conditions and circumstances
- Values: not predetermined-making
- Pluralistic concept
- Fully Psychological

# Pragmatism and Aims of Education

- Not predetermined
- Change according to time, place and circumstances
- Creation of new values
- Social adjustment and harmonious development
- More and more education

# Pragmatism and Curriculum

- Based on subject of utility
- Social subjects
- Health, hygiene and science

Subjects:- History, Geography, Science, Arts, Home Science, Agriculture

# Pragmatism and Curriculum

**Teacher:-** Friend, Philosopher and Guide

- Provide new situations to students to generate new ideas and new knowledge

**School:-** A laboratory for experiments

- Society in miniature

**Methods of Teaching:-**

Learning by doing

Learning through experience

Integration

# Some other Philosophies

➤ Realism

➤ Existentialism

➤ Essentialism:-

➤ Progressivism:-

➤ Perennialism:-

➤ Behaviorism

Thank You!

