



# Pivotal Role of Philosophy in Education

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**Abstract:** Philosophy is in reality the theory of education. In other words, Education is the dynamic side of Philosophy or application of the fundamental principles of philosophy. As Philosophy is the mother of all disciplines, therefore it formulates the method, education is its process. Philosophy gives ideals, values and principles while education facilitates these systematically through different curriculum. It is a big frame; now when we set education into the frame, different types of confusion may come up, because the interrelationship sometimes may appear to be ambiguous. Whether any particular philosophy dictates any certain educational approach, like Gandhian Education or Islamic Education, because both these are backed by strong philosophical foundation. In spite of having difference in stream, all the philosophical approaches focus upon humanity. As the modern system of education is fully learner-centric and the teacher is expected to develop the habit of life-long learning in the learners and the teacher has to be more resourceful and to play the role of friend, philosopher and guide of his pupils, so directly or indirectly the teacher must have the sense of educational philosophy. So education plays a pivotal role in both the fields of learner education and teacher education.

**Index Terms:** Disciplines, ambiguous, learner-centric, life-long learning, pivotal.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Despite being an important part of the Social Science discipline, we can't restrict Philosophy within the domain of a single academic discipline. Because the three basic foundations of Philosophy, namely Epistemology, Metaphysics and Logic – are very much relevant in each and every academic disciplines. The fulfilment of desires of human soul can't be the only objective of Philosophy, rather the designing of a curriculum of practising knowledge and its application to the reality also comes under the purview of the subject in question.

How to introduce the different academic disciplines and their different aspects before the learners and what would be the role of a teacher/ instructor in the classroom – are the unrestricted abode of Philosophy. Each and every single academic disciplines has its own philosophical domain, that means, the objectives and importance of its study, its historical background and also its implications upon human life – all these come under the core area of its own philosophy; besides, what should be the purpose of teaching the subjects to the learners, how to teach them and what teaching method would be followed to reach the maximum learning outcomes – all these are backed by strong philosophical outlooks. That is why Philosophy plays an important role in each footstep of learning and education in general.

## II. THE SCOPE OF PHILOSOPHY

A number of carnal incidents have influenced the normal activities of human life since very inception of the Earth. With the passage of time human beings have logically explained the incidents and their interrelations in different periods. When scientific exercise had become familiar to daily lifestyle, it gave establishment to the previously determined axioms with proper logic. Introduction of science and its applications in daily activities owing to dire need and gradual exercise of science unfolded different carnal laws of nature – severe thrust for knowledge and logic act behind it, which comes under the purview of Epistemology and Axiology – the two foundation stone of Philosophical analysis. In spite of considering Philosophy as one of the branches of the stream of Social Science, the exercise of philosophy had enriched the demand for knowledge even prior to the introduction of science. Again, science, in turn set philosophy upon truth and reality with proper justification. Also, the use of aesthetic sense is seen in different creative activities. Therefore, Philosophy shouldn't be kept confined within the domain of Social Science, instead, its influence remain visible in all fabrications of academic disciplines, if viewed properly. The system behind every progressive rolling incident and their mutual relationships depend on philosophy at a large extent. Hence, philosophy is very much relevant in every footsteps of human life.

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- I. To highlight the mutual relationship between Philosophy and Education
- II. To focus upon the portion of mutual dependence
- III. To establish Philosophy as the Theoretical background of Education by means of highlighting its indispensable role upon the field of Teacher Education besides general education.
- IV. To uphold the present status of Philosophy as a subject in the prevailing education system and some suggestions highlighted to draw interests of the learners towards the subject mentioned above.

### IV. RELATION BETWEEN EDUCATION AND PHILOSOPHY

The word Philosophy is derived from two Greek words, 'Philein', which means "to love" and 'Sophia', which means "wisdom". Thus the word 'Philosophy' stands for "The love of wisdom". The practical exercise of philosophical thoughts is referred Education. No method of teaching or learning is developed or be scientific without having strong philosophical background. The logic, correlation and tradition, used in the field of education, all are results of philosophical ideology. If knowledge, efficiency and attitude be accepted as the techniques of imparting education, then Philosophy is the base of its resurrection. Actually Philosophy is the structure and Education is the infrastructure. Famous educationist John Adams viewed Education as the vibrant aspects of Philosophy; on the other hand John Dewey opined Philosophy as the theoretical semiotic of Education. According to him, Education is a special type of experimental laboratory where the philosophical truths are being examined. Therefore, Education & Philosophy are two sides of a same coin where one side focuses the theoretical aspects of life and the other reflects its practical side. Educational philosophy therefore originates and develops from philosophy of life.

Different directions of Education, curriculum, objectives and goal of education, teaching methods have been determined by Philosophy at different era from the very past. It is Philosophy, which can build values in the tender minds and also inspires to flourish their creative entities. Also philosophy has a limitless impression as subject upon education. At the same time, the impact of Philosophy on the field of Teacher Education is very much relevant. The mutual relationship between Education and philosophy may be cited as under –

- **Role of Philosophy in determining the goal of Education:** the goal of education is determined keeping parity with the goal of life. Aim of education is built up around an ideology. Contemporary philosophical ideology has a deep impact in setting up the goal of education. Any particular philosophical ideology also deeply influences in determining the goal of life for a human being, because any kind of philosophical belief gives lesson of values, which later becomes the ideals of life and in turn develops objectives of education.
- **Philosophy in determining Curriculum:** Curriculum is a definite way through which the overall objective of education is fulfilled. Selection of learning topics and arranging them according to the different age groups of the learners needs philosophical take heads. Again, contemporary demand of the day highly influences in framing of curriculum in changing societal atmosphere. So, Philosophy connects dynamic curriculum and changing societal needs and therefore fulfils the ultimate goal of education.
- **Philosophy in determining Text Books:** We should always maintain a standard level in order to determine the learning materials, such as text books, subject oriented journals, references keeping a vigilant eye to the goals of education and curriculum. Text books, references etc. implant democratic values in the minds of the aspirant learners besides the learning materials. Therefore, text books have a deep impact in building ideals of human life from the very beginning. These ideals help to reach the goal education. Diversities in framing curriculum are visible in accordance with the change in philosophical beliefs. The present learner-centric education system is mainly based on the principles of individual differences where impacts of pragmatic and idealistic views become prominent. Hence, philosophical views have a large impact upon selection and composition of Text Books.
- **Impact of Philosophy in Selection of teaching Methods:** The method through which the learning materials are presented before the learners is called teaching method. Therefore, philosophical ideologies have impact upon selection of teaching methods. Modern educational methods are more or less based on any of the fundamental philosophical ideologies. As philosophy has deep impression upon determining the objectives of learning, so the nomination of the types of teaching methods and how the learners would be benefitted is mostly depended upon Philosophical aspects.
- **Concept of Evaluation and Philosophy:** Evaluation is the collective assessment of curriculum, teachers' performance, learners' perception, contents of textbooks including the role of the stakeholders' in total management in fulfilling the aims of education as a whole. As evaluation is specifically goal-oriented, it is of course philosophy based concept. The selection of the questionnaires and the analysis of the result gained – all of these come within the ambit of Philosophy directly or indirectly.
- **Impact of Philosophy in determining Teacher's role and discipline:** Teachers are certainly the spine of the education system. General students build up their ideals by following their teachers. Ideals of the teachers deeply inspire the learners; that is why the path to reach the goal of education is widened. At the same time, the nature of philosophical beliefs ascertains teachers' ideals along with their responsibilities and duties. Teachers have to play the role of friend, philosopher and guide to fulfil the learners' thrust for knowledge. On the other hand, the 3 D's, i.e., dedication, discipline and determination of a teacher are deeply correlated with the educational philosophy.

Again, Philosophy plays a vital in the field of teacher education too. Because, besides framing of curriculums, selection of text books and teaching methods, the concept of evaluation is assimilated with the programme of teacher education. Also, the teachers must have the knowledge about the manner in which the learners should be instructed and through the process which may further lead to reach the maximum learning outcomes and philosophy plays the pivotal role from the beginning to the end.

## V. PRESENT STATUS OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE PREVAILING EDUCATION SYSTEM

In spite of being one of the core subjects of the discipline of Social Science, Philosophy as a subject is not at all popular among the students, particularly in the remote area Schools and so the Colleges and Universities also suffering from lack of students and teachers. Therefore the stakeholders of higher education do not endorse the subject in their institutions. Obviously the question of proper infrastructures and modern teaching methods in teaching the subject appear to be alienations. This is probably due to the inadequacy in the curriculum and partly may be due to the improper teaching methods adopted by the teachers in the grassroots of school education and the scope of Philosophy in the mainstream general education becoming so much restricted in the future professional fields.

## VI. SOME STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR ENHANCING EXERCISE OF PHILOSOPHY

Some steps needed to be taken for enhancing the exercise of Philosophy in the modern system, such as –

- I. The subjects pertaining to the discipline of Social Science should be taught by correlation method and at the same time the interrelationship of different subjects should be highlighted from the very beginning and this should be taken into account at the time of writing of text books.
- II. Initiation of the logical thinking should be developed from the earlier school education according to the learners' acceptability. This may further encourage the students for the practice of Reasoning skills which will benefit them in the competitive exams in future.
- III. The learners should be trained in such a manner that they should adopt such things or beliefs having proper logical background.
- IV. The learners should be persuaded with proper care to grow more interest in learning Philosophy.
- V. The area of application of philosophical thoughts in the field of teacher education should be enhanced keeping in mind the indispensableness of Philosophy in the sector mentioned above.
- VI. Each subject has its own Philosophy – this concept should be developed in the minds of the learners so that they become more curious to the importance and objectives of learning the subjects while studying their subjects in depth.
- VII. More practice and researches in the field of Educational Philosophy should be encouraged.
- VIII. The researchers in the higher level of teacher education should be enthused and be given more opportunities to apply different philosophical thoughts in framing new curriculum, modern form of evaluation and review of text books.
- IX. As the teacher is the spine of the total education system, hence the process of recruitment of teachers in different level of educational institutions with proper remuneration should be done at a regular basis, mainly in the remote areas of the country.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Likewise other core subjects in the school curriculum, Philosophy may be introduced as a compulsory subject. As such the interest of the general students in the subject Philosophy may be developed and the integration of knowledge be encouraged with proper logical analysis. The logical analysis should be given much stress in the Secondary level, without which, the present students who will be the true carrier of the nation, can't systematically organize their explanations and thoughts for the greater interest of the country in a rational manner. In present days, the chaos originated around religions, heritage and political beliefs are mostly owing to inconsistent and illogical analysis by different corners. Even some media also malign different views. All these develop owing to lack of logical analysis and thoughts. Under the situation, if systematic and logical analysis could be geared up, then all kinds of restlessness could be mitigated through constructive discussions. Here lies the augmentation of Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen's famous book 'An Argumentative Indian', where he categorically uphold logical heritage in the characteristics of Indians. This logical analysis and arguments only can resolve all social chaos and tensions. Therefore, Logic, an important item of Philosophy should be inserted in the school curriculum without any delay.

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