



# Plato's Philosophy On Education [A Study]

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**Abstract :** Plato is one of the world's best known and most widely read and studied philosophers. Plato was born in 427 BC. He was the student of Socrates and the teacher of the Aristotle. The Academy he founded was by some accounts the world's first university and in it he trained his greatest student, the equally influential philosopher Aristotle. Instead of following a political path, Plato thought it more important to educate would-be statesmen. For this reason, he set up a school for future leaders. His school was called the Academy, named for the park in which it was located. Plato's Republic contains a treatise on education. Plato is considered by many to be the most important philosopher who ever lived. He is known as the father of idealism in philosophy. His ideas were elitist, with the philosopher king the ideal ruler. Plato is perhaps best known to college students for his parable of a cave, which appears in Plato's Republic.

**Keywords :** Republic, Philosophy, Idealism

## **Inrtoduction:**

Education holds a central place in Plato's philosophy, permeating his writings and influencing his views on governance, morality, and the search for truth. Plato, a renowned ancient Greek philosopher and student of Socrates, believed that education was crucial for creating an ideal society and individuals who possess wisdom and virtue. Plato's philosophy envisions an ideal society governed by philosopher-kings who possess wisdom and a deep understanding of truth. Education plays a pivotal role in creating such philosopher-kings. According to Plato, individuals are not born with inherent knowledge; rather, knowledge is acquired through education and philosophical inquiry. Through a rigorous educational system, Plato believed that individuals could be trained to become enlightened philosopher-rulers capable of administering just governance.

Plato recognized the significance of moral education in shaping virtuous individuals. Plato insisted that education should focus on cultivating ethical behavior, justice, and moderation. He believed that individuals are not naturally virtuous; instead, education has the power to mold morally upright citizens. Plato's philosophy emphasized the need for education to instill moral virtues, promoting a harmonious society where individuals prioritize the common good over personal desires.

Plato's philosophy on education involves the establishment of a comprehensive educational system that caters to all members of society. He proposed a three tiered system comprising primary, secondary, and tertiary education. Primary education would focus on basic literacy and numeracy, while secondary education would delve into subjects such as mathematics and sciences. Tertiary education would engage students in philosophical study, preparing them for leadership roles within society.

## Research Methodology :

The methodology uses for this research paper is dialectical, analytical study method along with a library study method.

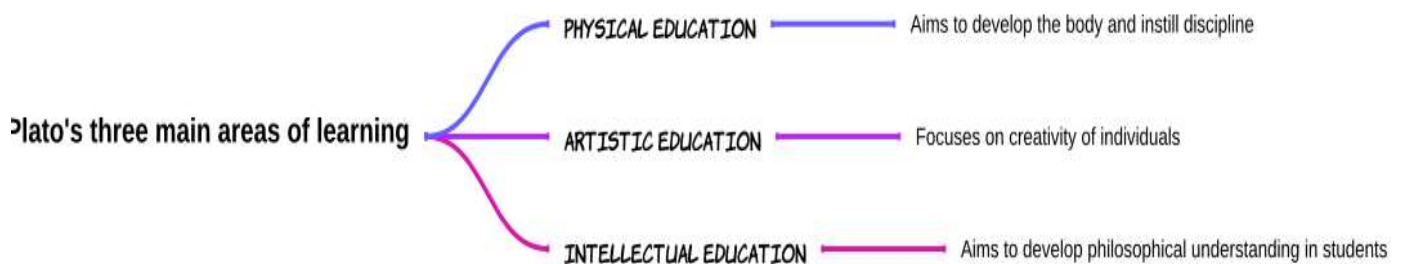
## Data Compilation :

The collection of this data has been compiled by various websites, newspapers and magazines.

## The Pursuit of Knowledge and Truth :

For Plato, education is the means through which individuals strive to attain knowledge and truth. He believed that knowledge is innate and can be recollected through the Socratic method of inquiry. Plato's educational framework emphasizes dialogue and questioning, with the aim of encouraging critical thinking and self-reflection. By fostering intellectual curiosity and facilitating the journey towards truth, education allows individuals to develop a well-rounded understanding of the world and their place within it.

In Plato's educational system, the curriculum plays a crucial role in shaping the individuals who will become philosopher-kings. The curriculum encompasses three main areas of learning: physical education, artistic education, and intellectual education.



## Physical Education :

Physical education in Plato's system aims to develop the body and instill discipline and self-control in individuals. Through physical exercises and sports, students learn the importance of fitness, endurance, and teamwork. This training fosters resilience and physical discipline, which are essential qualities for a ruler.

## Artistic Education :

Artistic education focuses on cultivating the aesthetic sensibilities and creativity of individuals. Plato believed that exposure to music, poetry, and other forms of art could shape the moral character of students. The study of artistic forms encourages emotional expression, fosters empathy, and inculcates a deeper understanding of beauty and harmony.

## Intellectual Education :

Intellectual education forms the core of Plato's curriculum. This aspect of education aims to develop critical thinking, logical reasoning, and philosophical understanding in students. Mathematics, geometry, astronomy, and dialectics are integral parts of intellectual education. Through the study of these subjects, students learn to think abstractly, analyze complex problems, and acquire a comprehensive understanding of the world.

## **The Role of the Philosopher-King :**

In Plato's ideal society, the philosopher-king occupies the highest position of authority. A philosopher-king is an individual who has undergone the rigorous education prescribed in Plato's system and possesses both the intellectual and moral virtues necessary for effective leadership. Plato believed that philosophers, with their deep understanding of truth and justice, were the most qualified individuals to govern society. According to him, philosophers possess a unique wisdom that allows them to transcend personal desires and act in the best interests of the people. The philosopher-king, therefore, becomes the epitome of virtue and wisdom, guiding the state towards justice and harmony.

## **Conclusion :**

In Plato's philosophy, education plays a crucial role in shaping individuals and society. It is seen as a means to attain the ultimate goal of the philosopher-king. Plato believes that the philosopher-king, who possesses wisdom and knowledge, should rule over society. This concept reflects the importance of education in producing enlightened leaders. Additionally, Plato's ideal curriculum focuses on developing the intellectual and moral virtues of individuals. Through a combination of mathematics, physical education, and philosophy, Plato aims to cultivate well rounded individuals capable of leading a just and harmonious society. The concept of the philosopher-king in Plato's educational system is central to his philosophy on education. Plato envisions a ruler who possesses not only political power but also deep knowledge and understanding of philosophy. According to Plato, a philosopher-king is someone who has undergone rigorous education and training, enabling them to govern with wisdom and justice. This concept emphasizes the importance of education in producing capable leaders who can guide society towards the ideals of truth, justice, and virtue.

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