

## **Importance Of Philosophy in Human Life and For Curriculum in Indian Context**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Philosophy begins when human beings start trying to understand the world, not through religion or by accepting authority but using reason. The daily lives of most of us are full of things that keep us busy and preoccupied. However, every now and again we find ourselves drawing back and wondering what it is all about. Then, perhaps we may start asking fundamental questions that normally we do not stop to ask. This can happen with regard to any aspect of life. In this article, the focus attention is to discuss the importance of philosophy. Philosophers attempt to answer such questions through the philosophical method. The method usually begins when a philosopher examines his own beliefs and begins to doubt their validity. From his doubt, questions emerge. Before answering a question, the philosopher thoroughly analyzes it to ensure it is clearly and properly defined. This helps narrow the path to the most precise answer. Next, the philosopher proposes possible answers to the question and provides reasoned arguments to support each one.

***Keywords: A Thinker of Change, Vision and Contribution, Education, Post-Modernism Approach***

## **Introduction**

Education has been regarded as an experience that has direct influence on the mind, physical ability of an individual or student. Again, education is a process which also helps in transmitting the accumulated knowledge, techniques and skills and values from one generation to another generation. Education is regarded as an agent which humanizes the human life towards cultured, progressive and civilized way of life. A professionally committed teacher educator should possess all the attributes of a professional teacher. As a profession, teaching has been considered as the noblest profession from times immemorial. In this regard the National Policy on Education (1986) has also observed that the status of the teacher reflects the socio-cultural ethos of a society. Besides, Kothari Commission (1964-1966) has put forth that of all the different factors which influences the quality, competence and character of teacher are undoubtedly, the most significant. It is necessary that teachers should be given full support to develop their potential and creative skills so that their teaching be more effective. Teacher acts as a pivot for the transmission of intellectual and technical skills and the cultural traditions from one generation to other. The responsibility of the teacher is very great. Therefore, it is right to say that the nations well depend on the teachers well-being. A teacher needs much more than he needs to have the vision of the kind of the society for which he is preparing the students. Philosophy is an academic discipline, which boasts of an ancient history. In fact, its roots go back to the beginning of human civilization and we can consider it one of the first sciences to emerge in the known world. As an academic discipline, the importance of Philosophy cannot be undermined as it mainly studies and attempts to explain mental processes. One may even say that it does not receive the recognition it deserves in the modern world as the present society is primarily interested in pursuing disciplines that ensure the material fulfilment of the humankind. Yet, when one looks at modern society, even with all its material benefits and development, people are far from being happy and content with their life. In fact, many people suffer from serious mental illnesses, which destroy not just the individual happiness, but also the comfort of the whole society. In this context, works that focus on the study of Philosophy are of immense value.

## **Defining Philosophy**

Philosophy is an academic discipline that exercises reason and logic in an attempt to understand reality and answer fundamental questions about knowledge, life, morality and human nature. (Anthony, K.I. 2014) Those who study philosophy are called philosophers. Through the ages, philosophers have sought to answer such questions as, what is the meaning and purpose of life?• How do we know what we know?• Does God exist?• What does it mean to possess consciousness?• What is the value of morals?•

Philosophers attempt to answer such questions through the philosophical method. The method usually begins when a philosopher examines his own beliefs and begins to doubt their validity. From his doubt, questions emerge. Before answering a question, the philosopher thoroughly analyses it to

ensure it is clearly and properly defined. This helps narrow the path to the most precise answer. Next, the philosopher proposes possible answers to the question and provides reasoned arguments to support each one. Other philosophers, who may give rebuttals, then comment on the arguments. Through this process of criticism and judgment, known as dialectic, philosophers attempt to prove the rationality of their beliefs and discover fundamental truths. Philosophical questions are usually foundational and abstract in nature. Philosophy is done primarily through reflection and does not tend to rely on experiment, although the methods used to study it may be analogous to those used in the study of the natural sciences. The Significance of Philosophy Philosophical inquiry is very valuable, suitable only for those who possess a modest amount of courage, humility, patience and discipline. Doing philosophy requires courage, because one never knows what one will find at the end of a philosophical investigation. Since philosophy can deal with the most fundamental and important issues of human existence and since these are things that most people initially take for granted, genuine philosophical inquiry has the potential to unsettle or even to destroy one's deepest and most beliefs. (Barron, 2013) To engage in genuine philosophical inquiry also is to risk isolation among one's peers, both for the unorthodox views to which such inquiry may lead and for the simple unpopularity of critical thinking. A philosopher must be able to face both consequences. Doing philosophy requires humility, because to do philosophy one must always keep firmly in mind how little one knows and how easy it is to fall into error. The very initiation of philosophical inquiry requires one to admit to oneself that one may not, after all, have all of the answers. Doing philosophy requires both patience and discipline, because philosophical inquiry requires long hours of hard work. One must be prepared to commit huge amounts of time to laboring over issues both difficult and subtle. People who avoid philosophy often complain that thinking about philosophical questions makes their heads hurt. This is unavoidable. If the answers seem to come easily to you, your inquiries almost certainly are superficial. To do philosophy, one must commit oneself to pain. Those who value truth recognize that there is no shortcut to it: every advance must be fought for tooth and nail. These virtues always are imperfectly represented in any given person, which is why philosophy is best done in a community; the critical scrutiny of other thinkers provides a necessary check on personal defects invisible to one's own eyes. By studying philosophy, people can clarify what they believe and they can be stimulated to think about ultimate questions. A person can study philosophers of the past to discover why they thought as they did and what value their thoughts may have in one's own life. There are people who simply enjoy reading the great philosophers especially those who were also great writers. The Relationship of Philosophy to different Fields The relationship of philosophy to science is complicated, for much of what theoretical scientists do could justifiably be called philosophy. The term prove is best left to mathematics and logic, for scientists do not prove their theories either. They do confirm them, however with evidence. They make predictions on what will occur under certain conditions in case their hypotheses are true. (Humphreys P, 2016) Logicians have debated the connection between logic and philosophy and philosophers since the two subjects were first identified. Some people believe that logic is a kind of philosophy, while others believe that logic is a tool used in philosophy. This is a problematic question, because

many people are under the impression that logic provides access to objective truth. Logic is often applied outside of philosophy, but whether it is considered philosophy in these other fields is largely a matter of opinion. In order to understand the connection between logic and philosophy, it is important to first understand what each study entails. Logic is the study of reasoning, whereas philosophy is better characterized as a study of general problems. Both of these disciplines involve using reasoning, but the rules of reasoning in logic are sometimes independent from the rules of reasoning in philosophy. Likewise, whereas logic often has specific forms concerning what is and is not a valid conclusion, philosophy is more open.

Given these differences, the connection between philosophy and logic would seem to be one of reliance. Philosophy relies on logic in order for its claims to be true, but it does not rely on any specific system of logic in particular. Without reasoning, there cannot be valid solutions to problems faced by philosophy. Philosophical Approach to Human Life Much of what is learned in philosophy can be applied in virtually any endeavor. This is both because philosophy touches on so many subjects and especially, because many of its methods are usable in any field. • General Problem Solving The study of philosophy enhances, in a way no other activity does, one's problem-solving capacities. It helps one to analyze concepts, definitions, arguments and problems. It contributes to one's capacity to organize ideas and issues, to deal with questions of value, and to extract what is essential from masses of information. It helps one both to distinguish fine differences between views and to discover common ground between opposing positions. In addition, it helps one to synthesize a variety of views or perspectives into a unified whole. • Communication Skills Philosophy also contributes uniquely to the development of expressive and communicative powers. It provides some of the basic tools of self-expression. For instance, skills in presenting ideas through well-constructed, systematic arguments that other fields either do not use, or use less extensively. It helps one to express what is distinctive of one's view, enhances one's ability to explain difficult material and helps one to eliminate ambiguities and vagueness from one's writing and speech.

### **Discussion**

Philosophy has had enormous on our everyday lives. The very language we speak uses classifications derived from philosophy. For example, the classifications of noun and verb involve the philosophic idea that there is a difference between things and actions. If we ask what the difference is, we are starting a philosophic inquiry. Every institution of society is based on philosophic ideas, whether that institution is the law, government, religion, the family, marriage, industry, business or education. Philosophic differences have led to the overthrow of governments, drastic changes in laws and the transformation of entire economic systems. Such changes have occurred because the people involved held certain beliefs about what is important, true, real, and significant and about how life should be ordered.

## Conclusion

Although many people are unconvinced that that philosophy is important, I think there are good reasons to think it is important. Philosophy can not only help improve critical thinking skills, but it can help provide us with knowledge of logic that can greatly help improve critical thinking. By studying philosophy, people can clarify what they believe and they can be stimulated to think about ultimate questions. Philosophy can make a person full man-cultured, refined and well rounded. It provides him the ability to synthesize, criticize, systematize and evaluate a variety and huge mass of knowledge. So, it is an important aspect of his total development that will provide opportunities to lead a life worthy of man's dignity as an individual and as a member of society. "Education without Philosophy is blind and Philosophy without Education is Invalid."

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