

STUDY MATERIAL

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SEMESTER -II

Philosophical Foundation of Education

Unit:1

- ❖ Meaning of Philosophy
- ❖ Etymological Meaning of Education
- ❖ Relation between Philosophy and Education
- ❖ Importance of Philosophy in Education

Meaning Of Philosophy:

The word philosophy literally means love of wisdom; It is derived from two Greek words i.e. 'phileo' (love) and 'Sophia' (wisdom). The eternal quest for truth lends the origin of philosophy. A love of wisdom is the essence of philosophy. The content of philosophical inquiry is the reality itself. There are different branches of philosophy depending on the answers they seek to the question of reality - Epistemology, Metaphysics, etc. There are also different philosophical approaches such as idealism, naturalism, pragmatism, materialism, and so on.

Definitions of Philosophy:

- According to Hegel, " "Philosophy is not a wisdom of the world, but is knowledge of what is not of the world; it is not knowledge which concerns external mass or empirical existence and life, but is knowledge of that which is eternal, of what God is, and what flows out of His nature."

Meaning Of Education:

Etymologically, the term 'Siksha' has come from the Sanskrit term 'Shash' which means to discipline, to control, to order, to direct, to rule, etc. When we are not doing correct or an in disciplinary act, education makes us disciplined by controlling our behaviour. It is also derived from Sanskrit term 'Vidya' which means to know, i.e., knowledge; it is acquisition of knowledge, experiences and skills. Etymologically, the word education is derived from educare (Latin) "bring up", which is related to educere "bring out", "bring forth what is within", "bring out potential" and educere, "to lead". Webster defines education as the process of educating or teaching (now that's really useful, isn't it?) Educate is further defined as "to develop the knowledge, skill, or character of..."

There are different views and understandings of the meaning of the term education namely: (1) an institutional instruction, given to students in school colleges formally ;and (2) a pedagogical science, studied by the student of education.

Narrow and Broader Meaning of Education:

Narrow Meaning of Education:

In the narrow sense, the concept of education is defined in terms of degrees or certification or promotion. There is a deliberate effort made with a definite purpose to develop certain amount of knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits in these institutions. This concept is confined only to a few specific, deliberate, and planned efforts that have a bearing on the development of the individual. The educator, in the narrow sense, aims at producing the literate or a professional person such as an engineer, a doctor, a teacher, a businessman and. Thus, in a narrow sense, education is nothing, but a purposeful activity, deliberately planned for the optimum development of an individual's potentials.

Broader Meaning of Education:

In the broader or wider sense, education is not limited to a classroom or a school only. It is considered to be a lifelong process, where all the experiences, knowledge and wisdom that an individual acquires at different stages of one's life through different channels (i.e., formally, informally and incidentally) are termed as education. The broader view considers education as an act or experience that has formative or additive effect on the personality of an individual. It is believed that education is not only an instrument of social change, but also an investment in national development. Such a view of education encompasses all life experiences, as there is a shift in emphasis from individual development to national development. It is considered that education is a lifelong process that includes all experiences that the child receives in the school or at home, in the community and society through interactions of various sorts and activities. The broader meaning of education implies the process of development, wherein the individual gradually adapts himself/herself to various ways to his/her physical, social and spiritual environments. Whatever broadens our horizon, deepens our insight, refines our reactions, and stimulates our thoughts and feelings educates us. — Lodge It is really life that educates us. — Thomas Raymont (1906).

Definition of Education:

According to Swami Vivekananda, " Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man".

According to Mahatma Gandhi, " an all-round drawing out of the best in the child-body, mind and spirit".

Relation Between Education and Philosophy:

Philosophy and education are two different fields of studies but they are closely linked together, because without any rational thinking prior to education, the whole educational

process is directionless. The relationship between philosophy and education is explained as follows:

1. Aims & Objectives Education in every society is directed for specific aims and objectives. That aims and objectives are set by a philosophical approach.

2. Methods & Curriculum of every educational system is based upon specific teaching methodologies and the curriculum. What should be the teaching methodology? And what kind of teacher should be? And what kind of curriculum be taught to the students? All the answers are given by philosophy. So education is dependent on philosophy for guidance in various of areas.

3. Philosophy of Education There is a separate branch of philosophy which is called philosophy of education. The branch investigates that what should be the nature of education? Whether the educational aims be based on specific religion, social, moral, scientific basis. And how these aims can be achieved?

4. Education is the Dynamic Side of Philosophy Here the great scholars like Ghazali, Iqbal, Plato, and Aristotle wanted that their philosophies should be given practical shape. The shape can be given only through well planned education system.

5. Sound mind in Sound Body or Virtuous Man The main purpose of education is to have sound mind in a sound body, and virtuous person. Philosophy gives answers and discuss that what is sound mind, sound body, and what virtuous person is. How we can say the philosophy is the contemplative aspect of education and education is the dynamic aspect philosophy.

6. Change in Education, In order to bring the desire change in society or in the existing education set up, a very pre planned philosophy should be behind that kind of reformation.

Relationship between education and philosophy is very close. They are called the two sides of the same coin. That's why educationists and teachers must have basic information about various educational philosophies in order to know the whole nature of a specific educational ends.

Importance of Philosophy in Education:

Please follow the Pdf documents from the book : Shiksha o Darshan by Dibendu Bhattacharya

Sources:

http://www.ncert.nic.in/pdf_files/basic_in_education.pdf (Meaning of education)

<http://uafulucknow.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/1.pdf> (Meaning of Philosophy of Education)

<http://uafulucknow.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Introduction-to-Relationship-of-Philosophy-and-Education.pdf> (Relation between education and philosophy)