

## **PART 2**

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# **Philosophical Foundations of Education**

*"It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it  
well"*

*-Rene Descartes*

## **Introduction**

The role of philosophy in education is to provide the learners the ability to synthesize, criticize, assimilate and evaluate a variety and huge mass of knowledge. The goal of this is to make a well-rounded developed man, cultured, refined and fully equipped. The understanding on its philosophical implication helps the students for their total life-long development worthy of man's dignity as an individual and as a member of society.

## **Nature and Scope of Philosophy of Education**

Philosophy of Education is a system of rationally supported assumptions and beliefs about education. It also provides an individual a strong foundation in meeting the demands of his profession and in coping with the problems brought about by multifarious activities of man.

## **What is Philosophy?**

It came from the Greek words "*Philo*" meaning love and "*Sophia*" meaning wisdom. It is a set of ideas formulated

to understand the basic truth about the nature of being and thinking.

## **Major Branches of Philosophy**

The four major fields of philosophy are:

1. **Epistemology** – It deals with the study of origin, structures, methods, nature, limit and veracity (*truth, reliability, validity*) of human knowledge. It also includes logic and a variety of linguistic concerns and the philosophy of science. The word “*epistemology*” is derived from the Greek word “*episteme*” which means knowledge and “*logos*” which means study. Epistemology as a theory of knowledge in all its forms and applications of how it is formulated and expressed and communicated. Under this, there are **two theories of knowledge**: (1) *Tabula rasa or the knowledge that comes from experience*, the main proponent was John Locke (2) *the innate knowledge or the knowledge that are inherently present in your being*, the known proponent was Plato.
2. **Metaphysics** – it deals with the questions of reality – its nature, meaning and existence. The word metaphysics is derived from the Greek work “*meta*” which means beyond and “*physikon*” which means nature from which derived the word physics. Aside from the nature of

reality and the universe, metaphysics examines time, space, cause and chance.

3. **Logic** - is a term used to describe the various types of reasoning structures, the *relationship of ideas, deduction and inference, and in modern times. symbolic logic which becomes quite mathematical.* Logic is too technical to consider in the confines of a general introduction to philosophy. There are many excellent texts that may be consulted for a general look at logic.
4. **Axiology** - It deals into the study of *values*. It analyzes the origin, types and characteristics, criteria and knowledge of values. It includes values of human conduct, the nature and justification of social structures and political systems and the nature of art and its meaning in human experience. Some questions raised by axiology are: what makes a thing desirable? Are the things valuable only because of the way one feels towards them, or does he feels toward them, or does he feel a certain way toward them because of what they are?

### **Philosophy in contrast with Education**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>
Practical	Theoretical & speculation

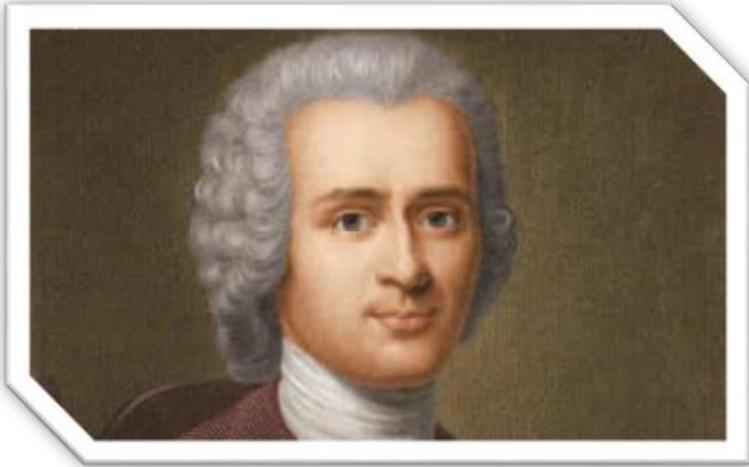
The actual process of educating is a matter of actively dealing with those factors, i.e. teaching, organizing programs, administering organizations and building curricula.

The experience of the educator in nurturing the young places him in with phases of reality which are considered in making philosophical judgments.

While philosophy is guide to educational practice, education as a field of investigation yields certain data as a basis for philosophical judgments.

Asks questions, examines facts of reality and experience, many of which are involved in the educative process.

Philosophy yields a comprehensive understanding of reality, a worldview, touch which applied to educational practices lends direction and methodology which are likely to be lacking otherwise.



*Jean Jacque Rousseau, a leading figure on naturalist education.*

### **The age of naturalism vis-à-vis educational foundations**

Naturalism is a philosophy that views that ***all objects and events are capable of being accounted for by scientific explanation.*** It is a doctrine denying anything in reality that has a supernatural significance and any theological conceptions of nature are invalid. There is an utter denial of the miraculous and the supernatural and revelation is rejected. *Truth can be discovered only through nature.* The three philosopher who were considered naturalists were: Thales of Miletus, Anaximander and Anaximenes.

## **Synthesis of Naturalism**

1. There is only one reality, and that reality is nature.
2. Reality is composed of bodies moving in space.
3. Force or energy is the ultimate reality.
4. Keeping close to the dominated and peaceful ways of nature is the most acceptance way of adhering to the demands of day-to-day life.

## **Fundamental objectives of naturalistic education**

1. The preservation of the natural goodness of man.
2. Education according to the nature.
3. Society anchored upon the natural individual rights of man.
4. Aim at the preservation of the natural goodness and virtue of the individual and the formation of a society based upon the recognitions of the natural individual rights.
5. Curriculum must consist of activities and interest manifested by the child in the process of growing up.
6. It stood for a democratic and universal type of education. Education is a basic natural right and therefore, everyone should be educated in the same way.
7. Instead of book and the traditional 3 R's, naturalism favored the informal exercises of the sense, the muscles and the tongue.

It is interesting to note that Rousseau took the view that man as he came from nature was good but he became evil through contract with society, he asserts that the educational aim was to free men from the artificialities and restraints of human society.

Naturalism emphasized the duties of parents in the education of their children by protecting from artificial society. Parents should develop the children's inherent qualities.

**The four stages of life and development:**

1. *Infancy* (birth-5 years old) – let the experience everything and this should be accomplished without external compulsion of authority.
2. *Childhood* (5-12) – laissez – fair approach. Let the child do nothing and allow nothing to be done. Do not use books, instead use games and let experience be the only teacher.
3. *Boyhood* (12-15) – age of reasons. This is the age when the child's natural desire to learn should be developed. The child would then recognize the usefulness of knowledge.
4. *Adolescence* (15-20) - perception of human relation arouse. This is the stage were sex impulse appeared to be strong and reason had to check the sexual desires and

channel them to more desirable outlets. He should develop an ethical point of view and strive for spiritual inspiration.

The main contribution of naturalism to the educational method was its emphasis on making the child the center of the educative process.

### **Did You Know?**

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote the first modern autobiography in the year 1782 but only published four years after his death.*



## STUDY GUIDE

### A. Concepts to comprehend

Goodness	Apeiron
Naturalism	Metaphysics
Epistemology	Axiology
Logic	Tabula Rasa
Philosophy	Knowledge
Ionian	Prime-matter

### B. Check your facts

1. What is your philosophy as a teacher?
2. What is the role of Philosophy in education?
3. What is your perception of philosophy as a discipline?
4. What are the two theories of knowledge under epistemology?
5. Do you think philosophy is still important in formulating educational objectives?
6. Discuss the four stages of life under naturalism.
7. Enumerate and discuss the four major branches of philosophy.
8. Compare and contrast education and philosophy.

9. Can you trace aspects of philosophical reasoning in the VMGO of your school?
10. What are the three fundamental objectives of naturalism?

### **C. Phenomenological Reflection**

*“Some people view that philosophy is difficult to understand, impractical, abstract and has nothing to do with the reality?”*