

## HARNESSING EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AS THE CORNERSTONE FOR STRENGTHENING TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS

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### ABSTRACT

One of the most important aspects of life is education, which involves a process of knowledge searching so that those who don't know anything at first may learn it, and those who don't comprehend it can get acquainted with it. Humans known as instructors or educators are necessary to enlighten and educate others. The library research technique is used in this study with the goal of gathering data pertinent to the issue or subject under investigation. Research papers, scientific publications, scientific articles, theses, dissertations, laws, rules, yearbooks, encyclopedias, and other written sources—both printed and electronic—are the sources from which the material was gathered. All things considered, the writers may draw the conclusion that philosophy serves as a solid foundation for improving instruction in classrooms. Teachers who are supported and modeled in the teaching and learning activities in schools, particularly in the classroom, may find assistance from educational philosophy in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as educators

**Keywords:** philosophy, foundation, teaching reinforcement, teacher

### I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of education in Indonesia marks the beginning of the expansion of both knowledge and scientific understanding in the country. Ontology, epistemology, and axiology are three key fields of philosophy that play a significant role in comprehending and interpreting both science and knowledge. Axiology is the study of the ends to which we should direct our attention. The study of ontology focuses on the characteristics of existence, including the essence of objects and what makes up reality. On the other hand, epistemology is concerned with the numerous methods by which one can acquire knowledge as well as the nature of knowledge itself. Lastly, axiology is the subfield of philosophy that discusses the nature of values as well as what is and is not appropriate behavior and what should be accomplished.

Philosophy is an essential part of the process of interpreting the findings of many branches of research or knowledge, and it plays an important role in assisting individuals in better comprehending the nature of things and the world in which they live. Individuals can develop a more in-depth comprehension of how science operates, how information is obtained, and how values are incorporated into scientific inquiry if they devote some of their time to studying the philosophy of science. In addition, philosophy plays a significant role in the area of science since it teaches scientists and researchers how to critically assess their findings and how to question assumptions that could lead to incorrect conclusions. This makes philosophy an important part of the field of science. They are able to evaluate their scientific discoveries and hypotheses via philosophical inquiry, putting them to the test in comparison to previously established theories and ideas. They will be able to verify that their study is rigorous, accurate, and reliable by following this procedure.

Philosophy also helps scientists and researchers build appealing arguments and defend their views with logical reasoning, both of which are vital talents for their line of work and can be gained through the study of philosophy. If students use philosophical concepts like deductive and inductive reasoning, they will be able to construct a sound basis for their arguments and come up with convincing evidence to back up their assertions. Furthermore, science not only addresses the nature (ontology) of knowledge but also how (epistemology) this knowledge can be changed into knowledge with realworld applications (axiology) (Suedi, 2016:25). In other words, ontology is the study of the origin of knowledge, while epistemology is the study of how knowledge is acquired.

The three pillars around which science is built are extremely helpful in pointing researchers in the right direction as they investigate how science itself may be improved. These foundations provide a framework that scientists can use to investigate the nature of reality, as well as the techniques and methods used to study it, as well as the principles and ethics that govern scientific inquiry. There are various phenomena that can be noticed in the treatment, attitudes, and behaviors of people in today's society, all of which are also researched in the discipline of philosophy. For example, in the field of education, it is the responsibility of teachers to instruct their students while they are present in the classroom. This has a very tight connection to the scientific philosophy that is inherently present in all people in some form or another. Teachers have a responsibility to their students to deliver the highest quality education that they are capable of in order to cultivate the nation's future generations by teaching them knowledge, ethics, and values.

Philosophy has the potential to provide educators with a rock-solid basis, enabling them to generate fantastic ideas and construct high-quality educational experiences that contribute to the growth of their students' personalities. When teachers incorporate philosophical ideas into their teaching practices and then employ those practices in their classrooms, they are able to build effective instructional strategies that not only impart knowledge to their students but also instill in them ethical ideals and virtues. This is because these strategies are built on the foundation of philosophical principles.

For instance, teachers who take the time to instruct their pupils on the fundamentals of axiology have the opportunity to instill in their pupils the values of empathy, respect, and tolerance. These are the kinds of characteristics that are required in order to thrive in a culture that has a great deal of cultural variety. By incorporating epistemological principles such as critical thinking and problem-solving abilities into their teachings, teachers can better train their students to manage the complex concerns and obstacles that they will confront in the real world.

As a result, with the title "The Role of Educational Philosophy as a Foundation for Strengthening Teaching to Teachers in Schools," the author wishes to discuss in depth the philosophy of science in relation to education.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **A. Definition of Philosophy**

The origin of the word "philosophy" can be traced back to its roots in the Arabic and Greek languages. The Arabic word "philosophie" has its equivalent in the Greek word "philosophia." The word "philosophia" is derived from the two Greek words "philein" and "sophia." "Philein" means "love," while "sophia" means "wisdom." Therefore, the etymology of "philosophia" means "love of wisdom" or "lover of wisdom."

However, this literal translation of "philosophia" as "love of wisdom" does not fully capture the active pursuit and acquisition of wisdom that characterize the true nature of philosophy. Achmadi (2001) argued that the word "love" in this context suggests a passive appreciation for wisdom rather than an active pursuit and acquisition of it. Therefore, the true essence of philosophy is not merely to love wisdom but to actively seek and acquire it through inquiry, reflection, and critical thinking. This is what distinguishes a philosopher as a seeker or pursuer of wisdom.

According to Muliadi (2020), philosophy is the mother of all sciences. He contributed and played a role as the mother who gave birth to and helped develop science so that science could live and develop. Philosophy provides a foundation for science to be accountable for its knowledge, as it demands that every step be subject to questioning and objections that can be defended through rational arguments based on objective evidence. This means that the scientific community must be transparent in their research and accountable for their conclusions, so that the knowledge produced is reliable and can be trusted.

Furthermore, philosophy guides scientists in formulating hypotheses and theories, designing experiments, and interpreting the results of their research. By applying philosophical concepts such as logic, epistemology, and metaphysics, scientists can ensure that their work is grounded in a rigorous and systematic framework that is both rational and verifiable. In this way, philosophy helps science maintain its integrity and credibility while also facilitating the discovery of new knowledge and insights about the natural world. The definition of philosophy was also put forward by Lubis (2015),

who said that, philosophy encompasses a range of technical disciplines, such as logic, aesthetics, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. Logic is concerned with the principles of reasoning and correct thinking, while aesthetics is concerned with the nature of beauty and artistic experience. Ethics, on the other hand, deals with questions of morality and how we should live our lives. Metaphysics is concerned with the nature of reality and the fundamental principles that govern the universe.

Finally, epistemology is concerned with knowledge and how we acquire it, as well as the criteria we use to determine what counts as knowledge. Taken together, these different disciplines constitute the broad field of philosophy, which seeks to explore the most fundamental questions about the nature of existence, the human condition, and the world around us.

From some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that philosophy is a science that studies the search for meanings and proves their truth based on human life experience.

### **B. The Meaning of Education**

The definition of education according to SISDIKNAS Law No. 20 of 2003 emphasizes that education is a conscious and planned effort. This means that education should not happen by chance but rather be intentional and well thought out. The goal of education is to create a learning atmosphere and process that enable students to actively develop their potential. The potential being developed here includes religious and spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed for themselves and society.

The definition of education encompasses various aspects that are crucial for an individual's overall development. The mention of religious and spiritual strength highlights the significance of faith and spirituality in shaping one's personality. It emphasizes the importance of cultivating a sense of purpose and direction in life through spiritual and moral values. Additionally, self-control is an essential attribute that individuals must develop to make informed decisions and act responsibly. This quality helps individuals maintain discipline and resist impulses that can lead to harmful consequences.

Furthermore, personality development is a critical aspect of education. It is essential to help individuals become well-rounded and confident in their interactions with others. Developing intelligence, both academic and emotional, is also vital for education. This development enables individuals to think critically, solve problems, and empathize with others. By honing these skills, individuals can navigate the complex challenges of life and achieve success.

The concept of noble character refers to the development of values such as honesty, integrity, and compassion. These values help individuals become responsible and caring members of society. They help individuals lead ethical and moral lives, build positive relationships with others, and contribute to the well-being of society as a whole.

Lastly, the development of skills is crucial in preparing individuals for the workforce and enabling them to contribute meaningfully to society. By acquiring various skills, individuals can pursue their interests and achieve success in their chosen fields. In summary, the definition of education covers a wide range of areas that are essential for an individual's holistic development, including spiritual and moral values, self-control, personality development, intelligence, noble character, and skill development.

Overall, the definition of education according to SISDIKNAS Law No. 20 of 2003 highlights the holistic nature of education, encompassing not just academic knowledge but also personal and spiritual development, character building, and skill development. It emphasizes that education is not just about imparting knowledge but also about creating a nurturing environment that enables individuals to realize their full potential and become productive members of society.

In addition, according to Nurkholis (2013), education is not only limited to the classroom but also encompasses the whole process of guiding and nurturing a child's physical and spiritual growth from birth to maturity. This growth is influenced by the child's environment, including family, society, and nature. Therefore, both parents and teachers have a shared responsibility for providing a conducive environment for children's growth and development.

Education, in this sense, is not just about providing knowledge and skills but also about shaping the character and values of the child to become a responsible and productive member of society. Through education, children can learn how to interact positively with their surroundings and contribute to their

communities. The meaning of education is a human effort to grow and develop the potential of both physical and spiritual innate abilities in accordance with the values that exist in society and culture. Education and culture exist together and promote each other (Rahman BP, et al.: 2022). Education in Indonesia is not only aimed at providing knowledge and skills to students but also plays a crucial role in shaping their character.

It is essential that education in Indonesia is based on the principles of Pancasila, the philosophical foundation of the Indonesian nation, and the 1945 Constitution, the country's fundamental law. The role of a teacher in Indonesian education is particularly crucial, as teachers play a significant role in educating and teaching students in Indonesia. Teachers are responsible for imparting knowledge, developing skills, and shaping the character of their students. They must not only educate but also instill moral values and ethics, teaching students how to behave properly so that they can carry themselves with dignity and respect, and be able to adapt to any situation they encounter.

In Indonesia, teachers are expected to be role models for their students, demonstrating the values and principles that they teach. They are also responsible for creating a conducive learning environment, where students can feel comfortable and motivated to learn. Teachers must be able to adapt to different learning styles and abilities, and be willing to provide additional support to those who need it. Indonesia's education system also recognizes the importance of teaching students about the country's history and culture, as well as promoting multiculturalism and tolerance. Students learn about the country's diverse ethnic and religious groups, and are taught to respect and appreciate the differences that exist among them.

In conclusion, the purpose of education in Indonesia is not limited to imparting information and abilities; rather, it also plays a key role in the development of the students' personalities. It is impossible to separate the job of a teacher in Indonesian education from the Pancasila ideals and the Constitution of 1945. Teachers not only have the responsibility of educating their pupils, but they also have an important role to play in forming the students' moral values and ethical standards. In Indonesia, students look up to their teachers as role models and want them to foster an environment that is favorable to learning while also encouraging multiculturalism and tolerance.

### **C. The Development of Educational Philosophy in Schools**

In general, the goal of education is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will allow them to effectively operate in both their personal and societal lives. The objective of education is not merely to acquire academic knowledge; rather, it is to develop all elements of a person, including their physical self, emotional self, social self, and moral self. Students benefit from education because it teaches them skills that will be useful throughout their lives, such as how to think critically, communicate clearly, work effectively with others, and make decisions based on accurate information. Students get the agency to pursue their individual interests and passions, to seek careers, to contribute to their communities, and to be responsible and engaged citizens as a result of their educational experiences.

According to Amka (2019), education is not only a necessary instrument for individual and societal growth but also a way of ensuring the overall well-being and advancement of society as a whole. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of philosophy in the field of education since it acts as a compass for all of the various educational theories and methods that are now in use. In particular, it directs researchers and educators. The practice of philosophical inquiry and reasoning assists educators in developing a crystal-clear grasp of the goal and significance of education, as well as the institution's guiding ideals and principles, as well as the strategies and procedures that can be applied to effectively educate pupils.

Philosophy provides a conceptual framework for education, helping educators to think critically and systematically about the issues and challenges that arise in the teaching and learning process. By reflecting on the fundamental questions of education, such as what the purpose of education is, what should be taught, and how it should be taught, educators can develop a deep understanding of the nature of learning and teaching.

This is in line with what was conveyed by Fajar (2013): teachers must have a mastery of the concepts they teach, as well as the science and art of teaching, or pedagogy, to ensure that students do not have misconceptions. In other words, teachers must be equipped with the theoretical and practical

knowledge and skills necessary to teach their subject matter effectively and help their students learn. Philosophy plays a crucial role in guiding and informing the pedagogical practices of teachers, helping them to create meaningful learning experiences for their students. It helps teachers design and implement effective instructional strategies, assess student learning, and provide feedback and support to their students.

In conclusion, the role of philosophy in education is essential in providing guidance and direction to existing educational theories and practices. Philosophical inquiry and reasoning help educators develop a clear understanding of the purpose and meaning of education, its values and principles, and the methods and techniques that can be used to deliver education to students effectively. Teachers must also have a mastery of the concepts they teach and the science and art of teaching to ensure that students do not have misconceptions.

### **III. METHODS**

The method that the author uses in writing this journal is library research. A comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge on a specific subject or issue is the goal of an essential aspect of the research process known as a literature review. This part of the research process is an important part of the research process. An author is able to identify and synthesize current research papers, theories, and concepts that are relevant to their research topic or objective if they do a literature review. The material that is acquired via a literature review can originate from a wide variety of sources. Some examples of these sources are research reports, scientific books, scientific essays, theses and dissertations, statutes, regulations, yearbooks, encyclopedias, and other written sources, both printed and from other electronic sources.

The process of doing a literature review often entails conducting a systematic search of relevant databases and academic journals, evaluating the abstracts and full texts of potentially relevant papers, and then extracting and summarizing key findings and ideas gleaned from these sources. An author's ability to identify gaps in the existing literature, topics that require more examination, and a theoretical and empirical framework for their research can be greatly aided by the thoroughness and organization of a literature review.

In addition, research proposals, grant applications, and other papers related to research frequently rely on the support that is provided by literature reviews during the development process. The author is able to make use of any and all material and thoughts that are associated with or pertinent to the journal that they are now writing by employing the approach of literature study. The process or steps taken in this literature study include:

1. Know and determine the type of library needed. In this process, the author first looks for the type of literature needed and relevant to the title discussed by the author, namely "The Role of Educational Philosophy as a Foundation for Strengthening Teaching to Teachers in Schools." The author collects relevant sources from electronic books (books in pdf format), media from the internet, relevant journals, or a combination of several of them.
2. Read the type of library that has been determined. After the type of literature needed has been collected, the author reads the sources of information carefully.
3. Carry out the evaluation. In this process, the writer collects all the important information obtained from the sources that have been read. The author records this information and adapts it to the title that the author is discussing.
4. Presenting the results of a literature study. After all relevant sources have been summarized, the author presents them in written form.

### **IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Educational philosophy is a vital element in the teaching profession because it guides the teacher in making decisions and taking actions in the classroom. A teacher's ethics and actions reflect the educational philosophy they follow. A teacher who understands and adheres to a particular educational philosophy will be able to create an environment in which students can learn effectively.

For instance, a teacher who follows a humanistic educational philosophy that prioritizes the student's needs, interests, and abilities will create a classroom environment that is welcoming, supportive, and nonthreatening. Such a teacher will give students the opportunity to express themselves and encourage them to take responsibility for their learning. On the other hand, a teacher who follows a

behaviorist educational philosophy, which emphasizes rewards and punishments, will create a classroom environment that is structured, predictable, and often rigid. This teacher will use extrinsic motivation to encourage students to behave in a certain way rather than foster intrinsic motivation and a love of learning. How the teacher arranges learning tools, starting from compiling annual program, semester program, syllabuses, RPPs, and even the implementation of the RPP, must refer to educational philosophy.

Educational ontology is a branch of educational philosophy that deals with the fundamental nature of education and its purpose. By understanding the ontology of education, a teacher can define their role as an educator and what they hope to achieve through their teaching. For instance, if a teacher believes that the purpose of education is to prepare students for the workforce, they may focus on teaching practical skills that will help their students succeed in their future careers. On the other hand, if a teacher believes that the purpose of education is to promote personal growth and development, they may focus more on developing their students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

By understanding their educational ontology, a teacher can also establish their goals and objectives, which will influence their teaching methods and strategies. For example, if a teacher believes that education should be student-centered, they may employ more interactive and collaborative teaching strategies. Alternatively, if a teacher believes that education should be teacher-centered, they may use more lecture-based methods.

Therefore, the teacher's educational ontology serves as a foundation for their teaching approach and pedagogy. The teacher's actions and ethics reflect their philosophy and can have a significant impact on their students' learning and development. What role should the teacher play as an educator? What can the teacher do to provide good teaching to students? With epistemology, teachers can find and develop what methods and learning styles suit the students they teach so that teaching and learning activities are not monotonous and can increase students' learning motivation. With educational axiology, teachers know how to be ethical when treating students. Teachers understand how to deal with student heterogeneity, such as how to deal with students who are introverted, extroverted, hyperactive, or passive in class.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

In general, the authors are able to reach the conclusion that philosophy plays an important role in the field of education. This is especially true in terms of the function it plays in advising educators on how to properly carry out their responsibilities as educators. When educators have a firm grasp of educational philosophy, they are better able to articulate their *raison d'être* as educators and their place in the process of teaching and learning. With this information, teachers will be better able to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and encourages the intellectual and personal development of their pupils.

One of the most important functions of educational philosophy is to act as a guide for educators as they devise efficient lesson plans and instructional activities for their students. The yearly program, semester program, syllabuses, and RPPs can all be developed more effectively with the assistance of philosophy. These actions, which determine the manner in which a teacher approaches teaching and learning, need to be linked with the educational philosophy that the educator holds.

In addition to this, philosophy guides educators in the selection of appropriate instructional strategies and learning styles that are tailored to the requirements of their individual students. This method helps to prevent teaching and learning activities from becoming mundane, which in turn might boost the students' desire to continue their education.

The definition of the ethical ideas and ideals that guide teachers in their treatment of pupils is referred to as educational axiology, which is another essential component of educational philosophy. It is imperative that educators have a solid grasp on how to accommodate the diverse personalities and behaviors of their pupils, including strategies for working with students who are more reserved, outgoing, hyperactive, or inactive. Teachers can establish a positive learning environment that encourages the intellectual and personal development of their pupils by adhering to ethical principles and values in their classrooms.

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