

Topic 1

Introduction to Philosophy

National Philosophy of Education

Rukun Negara

MPU3193 Philosophy and Current Issues

What is Philosophy?

Greek Words

Philos + **Sophia**

Love

Wisdom



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Dictionary Definitions

- *Dictionary.com* defines philosophy as the rational investigation of the truths and principles of being, knowledge, or conduct.
- *American Heritage Dictionary* defines philosophy as the investigation of the nature, causes, or principles of reality, knowledge, or values, based on logical reasoning rather than empirical methods.
- *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines philosophy as the analysis of the grounds of and concepts expressing fundamental beliefs such as reality and values.

Philosophy seeks...

to search for answers
to fundamental questions
about the nature of
knowledge, reality, morality,
and the meaning of life



Another key definition...

- Philosophy brings about a sense of logical analysis for analytical thinkers who can dissect societal problems in a bid to create knowledge for improving the quality of human life (Sumin, 2018).

World Philosophy

- Western Philosophy
 - Roots in ancient Greece
 - ☐ - Pondered significant questions regarding human existence
- Non-Western Philosophy
 - Arabic and Islamic philosophy known for natural sciences and metaphysics
 - Asian philosophy has its roots in communities and civilization in Asia and places greater emphasis on social relations, family and community

Questions asked in the context of philosophy

- What is truth? Why do we say a statement is correct or false?
- How do we know what we know? What is reality? What things can be described as real?
- What is the nature of thought and thinking?
- What is our purpose in this world?
- To what extent are our choices and actions considered “free”?
- What does it mean when something is right or wrong; good or bad?

What are some questions that you would like to ask about life and being human?

Characterization of the study of philosophy

- Philosophy could be a **way of analyzing frameworks**. A *framework* is defined as a way of thinking about the world and is composed of the views and beliefs of a person. Whenever a person encounters a problem or question in life, he or she often goes back to his or her own framework in order to make sense of the problem.
- Philosophy can also be an **examination of a particular area of knowledge**. There is a philosophy of science, which seeks to understand the fundamental principles that guide scientific thought. There is also a philosophy of religion, education, political and history.
- Philosophy could be viewed in terms of areas with a particular aspect of life or phenomena, e.g. logic: correct reasoning; epistemology: nature of knowledge.

Philosophy of Education

- The study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education, either within the context of education as a societal institution or more broadly as the process of human existential growth, i.e. how it is that our understanding of the world is continually transformed (be it from facts, social customs, experiences, or even our own emotions).

Philosophy of Education

- Recognises that the development of a civil society depends on the education of the young as responsible, thoughtful and enterprising citizens which is a challenging task requiring deep understanding of ethical principles, moral values, political theory, aesthetics and economics.

Philosophy of Education

- Most of the prominent philosophers in the last 2000 years have at some point considered and written on the philosophy of education. Among them are Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, Dewey, Adler, Confucius, Al Farabi, Tagore etc.
- They have been the key voices in philosophy of education and provided powerful critical perspectives about issues and problems in education.

National Philosophy of Education

"Education in Malaysia is an on-going effort towards further developing the potential of individuals in a holistic and integrated manner, so as to produce individuals who are intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically, socially balanced and harmonic, based on a firm belief in and devotion to God. Such an effort is designed to produce Malaysian citizens who are knowledgeable and competent, who passes high moral standards and who are responsible and capable of achieving a high level of personal well-being as well as being able to contribute to the harmony and betterment of the family, the society and the nation at large."

Key Focus of the National Education Philosophy

- “Education is an on-going effort” A well-planned education system is able to equip students with the knowledge and skills that will prepare them to adapt to changing situations throughout their lives.
- “Developing the potential of individuals” Learners are endowed with different capabilities, talent and potential and it is the role of education to develop these potentials. Education should seek to provide opportunities that will nurture these talents and capabilities.

Key Focus of the National Education Philosophy

- “Balanced and harmonious” Balanced means individuals who not only possess knowledge and skills but also have high moral values, emotionally and physically well-balanced and have a firm belief in God.
- “Firm belief in and devotion to God” Belief in God translates to the universal core values of gratitude, compassion/empathy, cooperation, courage, moderation, diligence, freedom, honesty/integrity, justice, rationality, self-reliance, love, self-respect, public-spiritedness, humility and modesty.

Key Focus of the National Education Philosophy

“Possess high moral standards” Citizens who know good from bad and understand the consequences of bad behaviour. Citizens who are spiritual, believe and practice the universal values in daily lives.

“Contribute to the betterment of the family, society and the nation” Citizens who subscribe to the Rukun Negara and willing to defend the constitution, are patriotic, tolerant and love their country.

Rukun Negara

- Belief in God
- Loyalty to King and Country
- Supremacy of the Constitution
- The Rule of Law
- Mutual respect and good social behaviour

Rukun Negara - Context

- Inaugurated as a national ideology on 31 August 1971 by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong or The King.
- Introduced following the events of May 13, 1969 that had weakened racial unity in Malaysia.
- • The main purpose of Rukun Negara was to restore the sense of unity among Malaysians.

Rukun Negara - Context

- The principles in Rukun Negara are clearly the key to forging harmony and racial unity to ensure success and Malaysia's stability.
- The philosophy of Rukun Negara centers on guiding the people to edify a national identity through the sharing of value, norms and actions.

References

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