The Development of Philosophy in Education

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Abstract

Philosophy plays a very important role in human thought, as it deals with deeper matters—specifically, the study of knowledge itself. This shows that philosophy is the foundation of all science and knowledge. Philosophers study how humans come to know and how they use knowledge. Since thinking and knowing are two distinct things, philosophy—or the thinking about knowledge—is essential. What are the characteristics of human beings? What do we know about the process? Thinking is done in order to produce knowledge. Knowledge is information that enters a person's heart after it has been acted upon, combined with understanding and the potential for action. Furthermore, knowledge has the capacity to predict and produce outcomes that reveal patterns. As a result, the effort to develop individuals through education and training—whether personal or in groups—depends greatly on knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Philosophy is the foundation of all educational sciences because it studies everything about nature. Various perspectives on philosophy focus on comparing or developing earlier concepts with modern ideas supported by scientific evidence. Philosophers investigate possible scientific evidence. Many people believe that philosophy has always existed, but it is often difficult to accept. As a result, some believe that it has entered into a realm of deception. However, this is not true. Those who are careful and genuinely interested seek the essence of things and reflect deeply—especially in philosophy (Rahman, 2020). Philosophy can be defined as the totality of all disciplines, concepts, and theories that have been classified and studied. The philosophy of science is a term used to describe a perspective on science that is based on scientific research. From this point, we can explore the extent to which the philosophy of science has contributed to the field of education (Tarigan et al., 2022).

Each year, science and the philosophy of science continue to evolve. Before discussing the evolution of the philosophy of science, it is undoubtedly important to understand the definition and scope of science itself. Science and philosophy are not the same, and many philosophers have offered definitions of philosophy dating back hundreds of years, even before the Common Era. In Greek, the word "philosophy" means "love of wisdom" or "love of knowledge," where "philosopher" means "lover" or "seeker," and "sophia" means wisdom or truth (Maharani & Sauri, 2023). Essentially, the philosophy of science is the philosophical study of matters related to science. In other words, the philosophy of science is an effort to study science—its nature, how it is acquired, and its benefits for society (Zahra et al., 2024). Through various developments and deep explorations by experts in the fields of ontology, epistemology, and axiology, this research has become a significant reference in philosophy. Today, the most essential forms of knowledge are science and education. In the educational process, the goals to be achieved must remain the primary focus. Philosophy plays a vital role in education. Over time, education has evolved from being a secondary need to a primary necessity. The quality of education is crucial to the progress of a nation. Education is considered successful when its goals are achieved. These goals are composed of three components: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor. The word philos means love, and

sophia means wisdom, so philosophy means the love of wisdom. Philosophy of education refers to the theory or ideology of education derived from a teacher's philosophy, life experiences, and the study of various disciplines related to education. Several traditions exist within the philosophy of education, including progressivism, essentialism, perennialism, reconstructionism, and existentialism (Tarigan et al., 2023).

The Development of Philosophy in the World of Education

Philosophy is a very ancient discipline. When we talk about philosophy, our attention is drawn far back to Ancient Greece. At that time, all forms of knowledge were referred to as philosophy. The word "philosophy" itself comes from Greek, derived from "philos" and "sophia." "Philos" means deep love, and "sophia" means wisdom. In daily activities, whether consciously or unconsciously, people often treat philosophy as the foundation of life and a perspective through which society functions.

Harun Nasution stated that philosophy is thinking in a logical and orderly manner, freely (not bound by religion or dogma), and as deeply as possible until reaching the fundamental essence of a problem. Plato (427–347 BC) defined philosophy as the knowledge of what exists. Aristotle (384–322 BC), a student of Plato, said that philosophy investigates the foundation and reason behind all things that exist. Al-Farabi described philosophy as the knowledge of all that exists. Understanding God—the One, unmoved, who is the active source of all that exists and governs the universe with generosity, wisdom, and justice—is the main goal of studying philosophy. A person who understands what exists is called a philosopher or al-hakim. (Haryanto, 2022).

Systematic knowledge must provide a clear understanding of its subject matter. Formal and material objects are divided into two categories. Every scientific discipline has both a formal and a material object—this also applies to philosophy. It is often stated that empirical sciences are branches of philosophy. Philosophy observes everything as a real entity—this includes God, nature, and humanity. Consider the difference between religious science and empirical science: religious scholars primarily investigate divinity from the human perspective based on revelation or the teachings of prophets, whereas empirical scientists do not concern themselves with or investigate the concept of God (Ibda, 2021).

1. Ontology is the explanation of existence or being, which questions its roots—the most fundamental foundations of what is called knowledge. Therefore, the ontology being questioned is the very basis of what we refer to as science itself.
2. Epistemology is a term used in philosophical research to refer to issues of knowledge, including its foundations, structure, methods, and validity. The most essential topics in epistemology concern the sources of knowledge and how knowledge is structured. It deals with the types of knowledge and the ways in which we acquire it.
3. Axiology focuses on the purpose of knowledge within philosophy. Axiology is the branch of philosophy that studies what is right and wrong, beautiful and not beautiful. It is closely related to education, as the realm of values is always taken into account and forms the basis for determining educational goals.

Philosophy helps people discover truth among other truths. It encourages individuals to make decisions from a range of available options, enabling them to face new challenges and learn wisely. Moreover, philosophy teaches us how to think critically, allowing us to integrate sense, logic, reason, experience, and religion in pursuit of a better, happier, and more noble life. (Hutahaean & SE, 2021).

The word "science" comes from the Latin words scio and scire, meaning "to know," while 'alima comes from the Arabic word meaning "knowledge." According to J.S. Badudu, philosophical knowledge is systematic knowledge of a particular field. For example, religious science refers to knowledge about religious education or theology, and language science refers to knowledge about linguistics and related areas. Additionally, people sometimes refer to their

knowledge as "skill" or even "mystical power," as reflected in expressions like, "he has long pursued knowledge or power from that elder." Individuals who are deeply knowledgeable in a particular field are called scientists or experts in that area.

From the above, it is clear that there are varying levels of understanding regarding what is referred to as knowledge, science, and philosophy. Not all knowledge qualifies as science because knowledge can come from many sources, such as life experience. However, for knowledge to be considered science, it must meet certain criteria. Thus, science itself is a study of a specific field. Philosophy, on the other hand, is a subdiscipline of knowledge. Philosophers study everything in a thorough and profound manner. All sciences have their roots in philosophy (Maharani & Sauri, 2023).

METHODS

The research method used in this article is library research, which involves data collection through understanding and studying theories from various literature related to the topic (Ridwan et al., 2021). In conducting library research, there are four main stages: preparing the necessary tools, creating a working bibliography, managing time effectively, and reading or taking notes on research materials. The data collection method includes searching for and compiling information from various sources such as books, journals, and previous studies. To support propositions and ideas, the literature obtained from various references must be critically analyzed (Alhamid & Anufia, 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Philosophy helps analyze the educational process more critically and comprehensively through the use of ontology, epistemology, and axiology. In this context, ontology explores the nature and existence of knowledge, while epistemology examines how knowledge influences individuals. Therefore, the philosophy of science enters the realm of education as a study of the core subjects that must be taught during the educational process. As a result, the philosophy of science seeks to find appropriate answers to the various issues that arise in education, such as:

1. Learning, instruction, and training
2. Techniques of learning, instruction, and training
3. Actions of teachers and students
4. Learning and teaching tools

Philosophy has become the foundation of educational theory, just as every educational endeavor is essentially supported by a philosophy as its core ideology. This philosophy is considered applicable in the field of education. According to Imam Barnadib, the primary goal of education is to apply philosophical analysis to education. Meanwhile, John Dewey, a renowned educator from the United States, stated that philosophy is the source of all knowledge about education (Wibisono et al., 2024). Philosophers aim to use this information to clarify the weaker aspects of knowledge, enabling us to understand various events in the world that have become subjects of knowledge and are often compared to one another. Philosophy supports this effort in the following ways:

a. Providing a radical explanation of the nature of science
b. Offering reflection within the scope of science
c. Practicing restraint by analyzing scientific truths and asserting that science is a means to understand truth
d. Resisting scientific egoism—that is, not dismissing perspectives beyond the boundaries of science

The existence of science must be examined and studied—not to weaken it, but to place it within the boundaries of its domain. The aim is not to diminish science, but to define its proper

scope. This can also help prevent the rejection of science and the perception that scientific truth is the only source of truth. Moreover, it is important to continuously observe how science and other dimensions and fields evolve and shape human civilization. In a broader sense, philosophy aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the universe, life, and its meaning through critical analysis of the concepts and assumptions of science. Philosophy also seeks to systematize science.

According to Titus, philosophy is a human endeavor, particularly concerning ways of thinking. By studying the philosophy of science, educators can strengthen their scientific mindset. As the main actors in the educational world, educators are expected to be critical of various theories and sources. They are also expected to think logically and rationally when presenting arguments, ideas, or perspectives (Filsafat & Bagi, 2022)

CONCLUSION

The philosophy of science provides inspiration for the advancement and development of the educational world through its ontological, epistemological, and axiological structures. It also offers direction and concrete steps for every educational process. In education, the philosophy of science exists and functions because it offers greater opportunities for creativity. Its contributions work in harmony with science and technology (IPTEK) to complement and support one another. As the primary source of various branches of knowledge, philosophy plays a vital role in the development of science. Philosophy focuses on understanding the processes of thinking, knowing, and how knowledge is applied in human life. Knowledge, which originates from systematic thinking combined with understanding, prediction, and action, plays a strategic role in shaping human thought and behavior. Therefore, transforming traditional mindsets into more modern, adaptive, and innovative ones is essential in education and training. This process not only facilitates individual change but also promotes overall social maturity, enabling progress and improvement in various aspects of society.

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