

## Literature Review: Implications of Educational Philosophy for the Theory and Practice of Education in Indonesia

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**Abstract:** The philosophy of education plays a crucial and fundamental role in determining the direction, goals, and practices of education in Indonesia. The study of educational philosophy encompasses the values, principles, and goals that serve as the primary foundation for the implementation of education. Furthermore, philosophy serves as a normative foundation for formulating national policies and developing curricula relevant to the needs of the times. This study employed a literature review method, examining various sources, including academic books and related scientific journals. The analysis focused on understanding the basic concepts of educational philosophy and its branches, namely ontology, epistemology, and axiology, along with their implications for educational theory and practice in Indonesia. The research findings indicate that educational philosophy provides clear direction in the formulation of learning objectives, teaching methods, curricula, the roles of teachers and students, and evaluation systems. Furthermore, philosophy plays a strategic role in responding to the challenges of globalization and digitalization by maintaining a balance between technological advancement and humanitarian values, so that education remains oriented toward the formation of holistic character.

**Keywords:** Curriculum, Educational Implications, Learning, and Philosophy

## INTRODUCTION

The term philosophy can be viewed from two perspectives. Semantically, the word "philosophy" comes from the Arabic word "falsafah," which is rooted in the Greek word "philosophia." This term is composed of the words "philos," meaning to love or like, and "sophia," meaning knowledge or wisdom. Thus, "philosophia" is defined as a love of wisdom or truth, thus enabling those who practice philosophy to become wise individuals. Practically, philosophy is understood as the realm of the mind or the activity of thinking (Muhammad Kristiawan, 2016). The philosophy of education is a branch of philosophy that focuses on the in-depth study of fundamental aspects of education, such as values, principles, goals, and the function of education in shaping individuals and society. As a theoretical foundation, the philosophy of education plays a central role in formulating the direction and long-term goals of education, as well as guiding learning practices in schools and in broader educational policies (Rochaendi *et al.*, 2024).

The implications of educational philosophy in Indonesia are evident in curriculum development, the formulation of learning objectives, and the selection of teaching methods. Philosophical foundations shape the role of educators and position education as a strategic tool in building national character. However, its implementation faces various challenges, particularly amidst globalization and technological advances, which require the education system to continuously adapt without neglecting its fundamental values. The world of Indonesian education still grapples with various fundamental issues, such as inequality in the quality of education, low literacy rates, and pressures resulting from globalization and the development of digital technology. In facing these challenges, the philosophy of education plays a strategic role as a reflective and normative foundation to guide educational theory and practice to become more relevant, humanity-oriented, and contribute to national progress. Therefore, a discussion of the influence of educational philosophy on educational theory and practice is crucial for understanding the

extent to which philosophical foundations shape the direction of policy, curriculum, and learning processes, while also opening up opportunities for solutions to various current national education issues.

## METHODS

This research uses a literature review method to examine and evaluate various literature related to the research topic. This method focuses on critical analysis and the synthesis of information from various relevant sources (Sugiyono, 2016). The study of the implications of educational philosophy is conducted comprehensively, according to the context of the research object. Afterward, the collected data is analyzed in depth, and conclusions are drawn as the final research findings.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Understanding and Basic Concepts of Educational Philosophy

Educational philosophy is a branch of philosophy that focuses on the study of the foundations, goals, values, and principles that form the foundation of an educational system. The core of this concept encompasses various ideas that deeply examine the nature and meaning of education (AR & Ismail, 2024). According to John Dewey (in Hasanah, 2022), educational philosophy plays a role in developing essential basic abilities, encompassing both rational and emotional aspects, as the basis for shaping human character. In this context, philosophy can be viewed as a general theoretical framework for education. Philosophy and education share a common goal: to promote progress and improve the quality of human life. Meanwhile, according to D. N. Sari & Armanto (2021), educational philosophy is a branch of science that essentially serves as an answer to various questions and problems in the world of education, analyzed from a philosophical perspective.

Educational philosophy plays a crucial role in the world of education, serving as the foundation and framework for developing learning theories and practices. Furthermore, educational philosophy serves to provide direction and guidance in the process of developing educational theories, ultimately developing them into educational science or

pedagogy. Educational practices grounded in a particular philosophical school of thought will create distinctive forms and characteristics of education. Furthermore, educational philosophy also plays a role in directing theories formulated by experts to align them with the realities of life. Thus, the perspectives and theories of educational philosophy can be effectively applied in educational practice, reflecting the dynamics and evolving needs of society (Hasanah, 2022).

### 2. Branches of Educational Philosophy

#### 1. Ontology

Etymologically, the term ontology comes from the Greek words "ontos," meaning being, and "logos," meaning science. Thus, ontology can be understood as the study of existence. Terminologically, ontology is a branch of philosophy that examines the nature of existence, encompassing everything that is real and potentially existent. This field is often associated with metaphysics because both discuss the nature of reality. Ontology is one of the main topics of discussion in philosophy, focusing on understanding reality and existence. Fundamentally, ontology discusses the rational principles of existence or the theory of "being," namely, what is to be known and the extent to which that knowledge can be reached (Rokhmah, 2021).

#### 2. Epistemology

Epistemology comes from the Greek words "episteme," meaning knowledge, and "logos," meaning word, discourse, or science. Epistemology is a branch of philosophy that focuses on the origins, nature, and types of knowledge. This field of study examines the process by which knowledge is acquired, the factors that must be considered to achieve truth, and the definition and criteria of truth itself. The primary focus of epistemology is examining how knowledge arises, how humans acquire it, and how to distinguish it from other things. Thus, epistemology is closely related to the specific conditions of space, time, and situation in understanding an object of knowledge (Pajriani et al., 2023).

#### 3. Axiology

Etymologically, axiology comes from the Greek words "axios," meaning valuable or useful, and "logos," meaning science or teaching. Terminologically, axiology is a branch of science that studies the nature of values from a philosophical perspective. Axiology can also be

understood as the study of the meaning and ultimate reality of values, such as goodness, beauty, and truth (Fithriani, 2017).

### **3. Implications of the development of educational philosophy for Indonesian education**

Educational philosophy plays a central role in designing effective educational policies, as it provides a theoretical foundation that serves as a guide in determining learning objectives, principles, and methods. Its role extends beyond explaining the direction and goals of education to guiding how learning strategies and approaches should be structured to achieve desired outcomes. Furthermore, educational philosophy serves as a crucial foundation for formulating policies that encompass comprehensive objectives, including the development of student character. Furthermore, educational philosophy plays a role in adapting policies to remain relevant to changes and developments over time (Magay & Ismanto, 2024). Therefore, educational policies based on educational philosophy must address the cognitive, social, and moral needs of students to create an inclusive and responsive education system.

By understanding various philosophical schools of thought, educators can design educational systems that are not only academically relevant but also morally and socially meaningful. According to (N. B. Sari, 2022), educational philosophy influences every aspect of education, including:

#### **1. Educational Objectives**

Educational objectives formulated on the basis of educational philosophy encompass the development of students' intellectual, moral, and social skills. This research confirms that philosophy is an important foundation in formulating educational objectives that extend beyond academic achievement. Idealism, for example, emphasizes education to develop individuals with high moral integrity and an awareness of universal values such as honesty and justice. Realism, on the other hand, emphasizes understanding reality through the mastery of practical knowledge and skills. Pragmatism emphasizes flexibility, specifically the importance of preparing students to adapt, think critically, and solve real-life problems. Thus, educational objectives encompass

character building, strengthening analytical skills, and fostering social responsibility.

#### **2. Teaching Methods**

Philosophy plays a crucial role in designing effective teaching methods that align with students' needs. From an idealist perspective, learning methods emphasize discussion and reflection to foster in-depth thinking about moral values and universal principles. Meanwhile, fact-oriented realism emphasizes learning through experimentation and direct experience so students can understand reality empirically. Pragmatism adds a more flexible approach by emphasizing project-based learning and collaboration, enabling students to engage in activities relevant to real life. For example, constructivism, rooted in the philosophy of active interaction, encourages the use of exploratory methods such as group discussions and simulations. Thus, educational philosophy provides a variety of learning approaches that can be tailored to the context and needs of students.

#### **3. Curriculum**

A curriculum developed based on a philosophical foundation in education is not solely focused on academic subjects but also aimed at supporting the development of students' overall potential. Research findings indicate that philosophical thinking plays a crucial role in designing a curriculum that aligns with students' needs. For example, from an idealist perspective, the curriculum emphasizes strengthening intellectual and moral aspects through subjects such as literature, art, and philosophy. Realism broadens this scope by incorporating scientific and practical learning, such as mathematics, science, and technology. Meanwhile, pragmatism encourages curriculum flexibility to encompass life skills, including collaboration, communication, and innovation. Constructivism then complements this with an active, project-based learning approach and activities relevant to real life. This combination of various philosophical schools allows the curriculum to be more adaptive, comprehensive, and oriented towards developing student character and competency.

#### **4. The Role of Teachers and Students**

In essentialism and perennialism, teachers are considered the central authority tasked with imparting knowledge to students. Conversely,

progressivism and reconstructionism position teachers as facilitators and students as active subjects who contribute to determining the direction of learning. This view directly impacts interaction patterns in the classroom (Rahmadania et al., 2025).

#### 5. Evaluation and Assessment

In traditional educational philosophies such as essentialism, assessment focuses on measuring academic learning outcomes through objective tests. In contrast, progressivism and reconstructionism emphasize comprehensive evaluation, encompassing various forms such as portfolios, observations, and assessment of the learning process itself (Rahmadania et al., 2025).

#### 4. The Challenges and Relevance of Philosophy in Modern Education

Amidst technological advancements and the development of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the role of philosophy in education is increasingly important. Although the teaching and learning process has been greatly influenced by technology, a philosophical foundation remains a key pillar to ensure education is not trapped in purely technical aspects but also considers ethical and humanitarian values. A major challenge facing education today is how to combine technological innovation with moral values and character development. Therefore, philosophy plays a crucial role in ensuring education remains focused on developing the whole person, not just producing individuals with technical skills (Legi & Legi, 2025).

Digital developments, which permeate all aspects of human life, from simple matters to complex issues, are a sign of rapid progress. The world of education is also feeling the impact of this wave of digitalization. Currently, both children and adults face the significant challenge of breaking free from dependence on technology, which provides a rapid means of accessing information. Therefore, the education system must be able to adapt to technological developments while acting as a filter for change to avoid losing fundamental values, including in the face of globalization. In addition to adapting to technological advances, education is also expected to strengthen the character development of students, thus producing a generation that not only excels in technological mastery but also upholds moral values (Wulan Sari et al., 2023).

Furthermore, philosophy plays a crucial role in ensuring that modern education respects cultural diversity and local values. Although globalization and digitalization have significantly impacted the education system, not all Western educational models can be simply adopted without adjustment. Therefore, philosophical reflection is needed to align education with local wisdom and deeply rooted culture. In the Indonesian context, for example, educational philosophy needs to integrate the values of Pancasila, the spirit of togetherness, and mutual cooperation as the foundation for shaping student character (Legi & Legi, 2025). To address these challenges, educators need to design learning approaches that support students in managing information more efficiently. These efforts include improving digital literacy, strengthening critical thinking skills, and skills in sorting and organizing information. With these skills, students will be better prepared to deal with the flood of information and will be able to maintain the direction of values in their learning process.

#### CONCLUSION

Educational philosophy plays a crucial role in providing the foundation for thinking, direction, and goals for educational practice in Indonesia. Through its branches of ontology, epistemology, and axiology, philosophy helps define the nature of humankind, how to acquire knowledge, and the values that underpin learning. In practice, educational philosophy influences policies, curricula, learning strategies, and the roles of teachers and students. In the modern era, philosophy remains relevant as a balance between technological advancement and human values, ensuring that education focuses not only on cognitive aspects but also on character and moral development.

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