

Philosophical Foundation of Curriculum

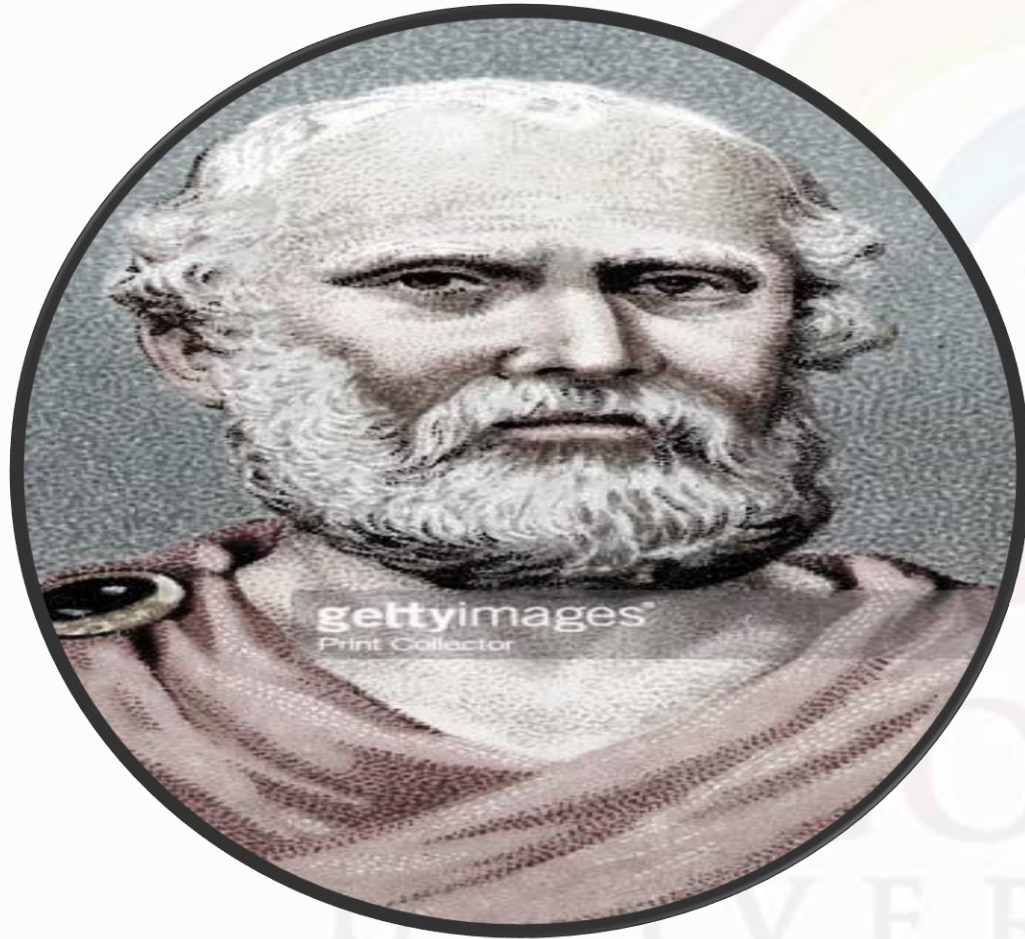
**Knowledge Curriculum and
Perspectives
(UNIT- I)**

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School of Education

Course Code : BEDU2004

Course Name: Knowledge and Curriculum



Philosophical Foundation of Curriculum

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Philosophical Foundation of Curriculum

- It is concerned with beliefs.
- • What is real --- **METAPHYSICS**
- • What is true/knowledge: **EPISTEMOLOGY**
- • What is good/value – **AXIOLOGY**

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Idealism

- The most significant philosophy...most of the world's religions are based on idealism
- Idealism as **idea-ism**
- Plato—the Academy opened in 397 B.C., believed that **material things** are of **little consequence**...the everyday world of things and objects is a shadowy copy of the true idea which the soul carries within itself from heaven, reason is rooted in a spiritual soul
- **No discipline problems**, because the teacher knows the content well, likes to teach, and knows the students
- The idealist philosophy views the **school** as **representing the community**

Idealist Philosophers

- Plato, Descartes, Kant, Hegel
- Students are encouraged to stretch themselves through **higher-level thinking** to become **truth seekers**
- The teacher will **devote considerable time** and nergy to the one who goes **astray**

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Realism

- Objects **exist** regardless of how we perceive them
- Focuses on the **scientific method** and personal experience
- The crux of realism is **science**— empirical, objective, and experimental...with precise measurements

Realist Philosophers

- Aristotle, Comenius, Pestalozzi, Herbart, Montessori, Hobbes, Bacon, Locke
- Thomas Jefferson and Horace Mann **embraced** realism
- **Accountability** in the schools is an outgrowth of realism

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Existentialism

- Focuses on the **individual**
- Not a logical theory, but **one that can be felt as an attitude or mood**
- Awareness, anxiety, choice take on special meaning
- **Revolt against** the traditional philosophical stance
- A way of life which involves **one's total self in complete seriousness about the self**

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Existentialist Philosophers

- Kierkegaard, Sartre
- Kierkegaard—themes of **passionate choice, absolute freedom, total responsibility**
- Life must be understood backward, but lived forward
- The theory focuses on **value questions**

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PERENNIALISM

- **Aim:** To educate the rational person; cultivate intellect
- **Role:** Teachers assist students to think with reason
- **Focus:** Classical subjects, literary analysis.
- Curriculum is enduring
- **Trends:** Use of great books (Bible, Quran etc)
Classic and Liberal Arts

ESSENTIALISM

- **Aim:** To promote intellectual growth of learners to become competent
- **Role:** Teachers are sole authorities in the subject area
- **Focus:** Essential skills of 3R's (*reading, writing, and arithmetic*); essential subjects
- **Trends:** Back to basics, Excellence in education, cultural literacy

PROGRESSIVISM

- **Aim:** Promote democratic social living
- **Role:** Teacher leads for growth and development of lifelong learners
- **Focus:** Interdisciplinary subjects, Learner centered, Outcomes-based.
- **Trends:** Equal opportunities for all, Contextualized curriculum, Humanistic education

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

- **Aim:** To improve and reconstruct society. Education for change
- **Role:** Teacher acts as agent of change and reforms
- **Focus:** Present and future educational landscape
- **Trends:** School and curricular reform, Global Education, Collaboration and Convergence, Standards and Competencies

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