



ROLE OF PHILOSOPHY IN HUMAN LIFE

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ABSTRACT

When humans first begin to search for meaning in their lives, rather than relying on blind faith or submitting themselves to authority, they are making the first steps toward engaging in philosophy. The majority of us have sufficient things to keep us occupied and busy over the course of the day. On the other hand, we do take a step back and attempt to comprehend everything from time to time. Then, maybe, we'd take a moment to reflect on some of the most fundamental issues that face us in life. This potential applies to everything that exists in the world. This article will discuss the role that philosophy plays in Sri Lankan culture and explain its relevance.

Keywords: philosophy, human life

INTRODUCTION

It's possible that the academic study of philosophy might lay claim to a lengthy and storied history. In point of fact, it is possible to trace its roots all the way back to the beginning of human civilization, which places it among the earliest new scientific fields to emerge. Philosophy is regarded as one of the most significant academic subfields due to the fact that it focuses on the investigation and clarification of mental operations. It is possible to claim that current society does not get the attention it deserves in the modern world since its primary focus is on disciplines that aim to satisfy the material needs of individuals. In spite of all of the technological advances and financial conveniences that current society makes available, its inhabitants are not exactly brimming with satisfaction and delight. The

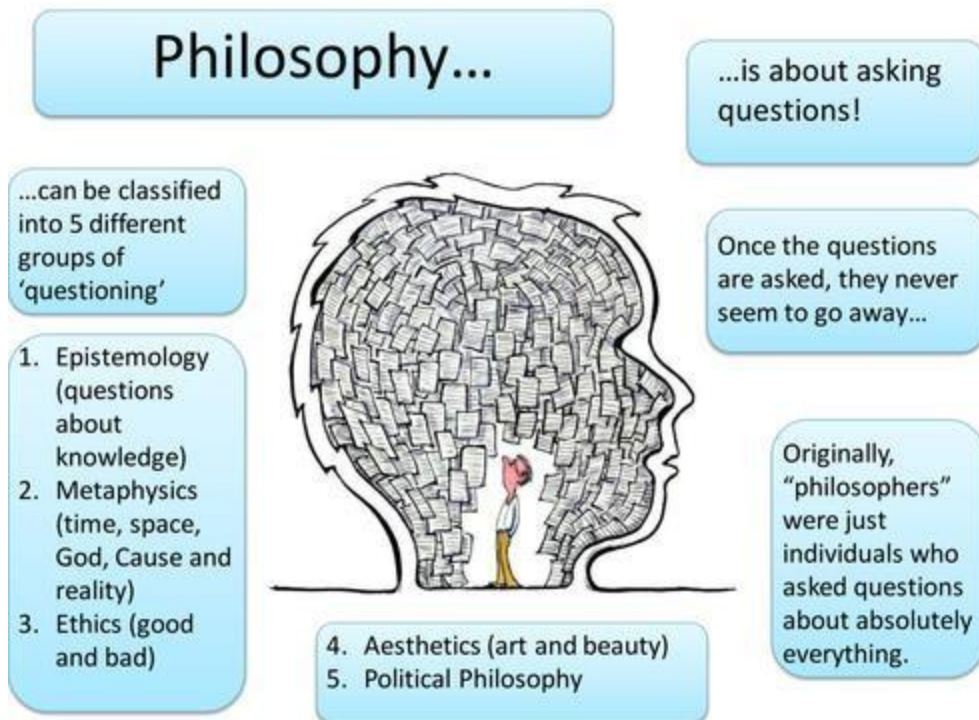


unfortunate reality is that a significant number of people struggle with serious mental illnesses that bring misery not just to themselves but to everyone around them as well. Texts that are centered on philosophy are very beneficial in this environment. You won't come across many works like these in countries like Sri Lanka, though, since even philosophy isn't given the respect it deserves there.

Defining Philosophy

Philosophy seeks to address fundamental questions, such as what it is to be human and how the world functions, via the use of logical mind as its method of inquiry. (2014) cites Anthony, K.I. People who devote themselves to the study of philosophy are known as philosophers. The most profound minds that ever lived have struggled mightily with issues like as

- Why bother to live if there is no meaning to it?
- Concerning the question, "How do we know that?"
- Do you have faith in a higher power?
- What exactly does it mean to have a conscious awareness?
- Why should we be concerned about morality?



The philosophical method is what philosophers employ to attempt to find answers to these kinds of questions. It is common practice for the procedure to begin with the philosopher examining his or her own beliefs. His reservations prompted him to do the research that he did. Before offering an answer, the philosopher takes the time to thoroughly investigate and validate that the query has been posed in the most appropriate manner. This reduces the number of potential solutions that need to be considered. After then, the philosopher presents a variety of potential remedies to the issue at hand, each of which is accompanied by a logical argument. After that, more philosophers remark on the arguments, and some of those philosophers may even present rebuttals. Dialectic is a process of criticism and judgment that is used by philosophers to attempt to demonstrate the validity of their ideas and discover universal truths.

The majority of philosophical investigations are theoretical and broad in scope. Although the methodologies that are used in the investigation of philosophy may be comparable to those that are utilized in the research of the scientific sciences, philosophy is often accomplished via thinking rather than depending on experimentation.



The Significance of Philosophy

Investigating philosophy may be highly useful, but it is best suited to those who have a modest amount of courage as well as a reasonable level of humility, patience, and discipline. It takes a certain amount of bravery to investigate philosophical questions since you never know what you could find out. Because it may deal with the most fundamental and important concerns of human existence, which are things that most people first take for granted, genuine philosophical study has the potential to unsettle or even destroy one's deepest and most held beliefs. This is because genuine philosophical research can deal with issues that most people initially take for granted. According to study conducted by Barron (2013), the likelihood of social isolation is associated with genuine philosophical inquiry. This is due to the fact that such research may lead an individual to certain unpopular findings, in addition to the general unpopularity of critical thinking. A philosopher should be able to give equal weight to each of these possibilities.

Doing philosophy requires humility since it requires one to continuously remind themselves of how little they know and how easy it is to make errors. This requires one to be mindful of their own fallibility. To get started with a philosophical research, one has to be willing to admit that it's possible they don't already know all there is to know about the subject at hand. Due to the amount of time and effort required to research philosophy's fundamental concerns, the study of philosophy is a challenging pursuit that requires self-control and patience on the part of the student. One has to be willing to invest a large amount of time in contemplating intricate and multifaceted issues.

Many people who avoid philosophical investigation do so on the grounds that they believe it will bring them mental suffering. This cannot be avoided by us. If you discover that the answers to your questions are flowing easily, it is probable that you are just skimming the surface of the topic. Philosophy is a difficult endeavor that calls for unwavering commitment. Those that are interested in the truth are aware that there is no shortcut to success and that they must instead struggle for every triumph. Every single person has a limited potential to demonstrate these attributes, which is why philosophizing is most successful when done in a group context; the critical evaluation of other thinkers serves a



key check on personal flaws that are hidden to one's own eyes, and this is why philosophizing is most effective when done in a collective setting.

By studying philosophy, individuals may get a deeper understanding of their own views and be motivated to reflect on the most important questions that exist in life. It is possible to get insight into one's own thought processes by studying the mind processes of philosophers from the past. This is because the two sets of thought processes are similar. Many people find enjoyment in great philosophers on their own, particularly great philosophers who were also brilliant writers. This is especially true of great philosophers who wrote extensively.

PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN PERSON AND OTHER DISCIPLINES

The human predicament is the primary topic of inquiry in the academic subfield known as Philosophy of the Human Person. A few examples of the many fields that fall under the umbrella of the humanities include psychoanalysis, sociology, archaeology, linguistics, and politics. In what ways does Philosophy of the Human Person differentiate itself from these other areas when compared to it? In order to find a solution to this problem, let's take a brief look at the primary emphasis of these areas.

Sigmund Freud, a medical practitioner from Austria, is credited with developing the fundamental concepts that would later become psychoanalysis. Its major emphasis is on people as well as the mental processes and acts that they engage in, but it has the potential to be applied to more extensive social systems as well. It is a set of ideas about human behavior as well as a technique for coping with mental health difficulties. It is also a method for studying the mind.

Sociology is a subject of the social sciences that tries to expand our knowledge of human society by collecting and analyzing data in order to make conclusions and give suggestions for improving social circumstances. This is accomplished via the process of sociological research, which may be summarized as "the study of society with the purpose of bettering



society." It covers a wide range of topics, from the interactions of individuals to the patterns that emerge in society as a whole.

If it is feasible, artifacts, which are earlier elements of human culture, are gathered in-situ; nevertheless, archaeologists also examine museum pieces, contemporary garbage, and other kinds of human material culture. Archaeologists work together with a variety of other disciplines, including art historians, forensic anthropologists, physics laboratories (for dating), and museums. They are employed by museums and are responsible for ensuring the safety of the items that were discovered by archaeologists. Archaeologists are often connected with the activity of "digs," which refers to the process of discovering previously buried areas. Archaeologists divide up the history of humanity into a number of different cultural epochs, such as the Paleolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Ages, according to the objects that have survived through the ages.

Linguistics is the scientific name for the study of language. The field of study known as Linguistic Anthropology (often shortened to "Anthropological Linguistics") investigates how humans communicate with one another verbally and nonverbally, how languages change over time and location, how they are put to social use, and how they are intertwined with their respective cultures. The discipline of Anthropology known as Linguistic Anthropology bridges the gap between the study of language and the social and cultural settings in which language is used. Linguistic research methodologies are used to anthropological problems.

As a subfield of the social sciences, political science refers to the study of political phenomena such political conduct, political institutions, and political dynamics. Politics is the process of reaching decisions that are acceptable to the group as a whole. Political dynamics may be observed at work in any human organization, despite the fact that the term is most often associated with activities that take place inside established governments. Politics is a subfield of science that focuses on the study of power structures in organizations and institutions such as governments and international organizations, as well as the ways in which individuals engage with public policy and the factors that impact public opinion.



In light of the information presented here, it should come as no surprise that each of these subfields adopts an empirical methodology when researching a particular aspect of human nature. They use various scientific methods, such as cautious observation and carefully orchestrated experiments, in the course of their study. In contrast to these linked topics, philosophy of the human being studies the whole of the human being by concentrating on the problems that are exclusive to man and looking for definitive answers to those problems. Philosophy of the Human Person penetrates far further into the metaphysical realms, despite the fact that it makes use of empirical research procedures. Instead of making people the object of its study, it makes the human person its topic. People are not only objects; in addition, they have topics, egos, and identities of their own. As a result, Philosophy of the Human Person refers to the study of the factors that determine what makes a person a human being.

The Relationship of Philosophy to different Fields

As a result of the fact that theoretical scientists engage in a great deal of activity that may be categorized as philosophy, the connection between the two fields is, at best, hazy. The term "prove" should be left to those who specialize in mathematics and logic; scientists never provide evidence to support their statements. However, they present evidence to support the allegations that they make. They use the credibility of their hypotheses as a basis for making predictions about the future. Since the two domains were split up, philosophers and logicians have been debating how closely they are connected ever since the study conducted by Humphreys P. in 2016 was published. Although there are many people who hold the view that logic is a subfield of philosophy, others regard it more as a strategy for tackling philosophical questions. This is a difficult topic to discuss since there is a common notion that one may get at the unquestionable truth via the use of logical argument. It is mostly a question of opinion whether or not logic should be considered part of philosophy in areas of study other than philosophy.

To have a better understanding of the connections between logic and philosophy, it is helpful to have a solid foundation in both of those subfields. The study of reasoning, on the



other hand, is what logic is, which differentiates it from philosophy, which is the study of more general topics.

Despite the fact that thinking is necessary in all areas of study, the rules of logic are often considered to be separate from the rules of philosophy. Philosophy, on the other hand, may be fairly flexible when it comes to determining what makes a legitimate conclusion, in contrast to logic, which may be quite rigorous in this regard.

These discrepancies provide credence to the idea that philosophy and logic are intertwined in a mutually supportive relationship. The assertions that are made in philosophy are built on logic, but not one certain kind of logic in particular. Outside of rational mind, there is no other place where philosophical questions may be answered credibly.

Philosophical Approach to Human Life

The skills one acquires in philosophy are often transferable to any other discipline. This is because philosophical study covers such a wide range of topics, and more crucially, since many philosophical strategies are applicable to a wide variety of other fields.

- **General Problem Solving**

Learning philosophy is the most effective way to develop your capacity for critical thinking as well as your ability to come up with original answers to challenges. It is helpful for simplifying difficult topics such as defining words and assessing arguments. It enhances one's capacity to organize ideas and problems, address important issues, and extract the most important information from enormous volumes of data. It is helpful in identifying slight differences in viewpoints and in finding areas of agreement with individuals with whom one disagrees. In addition to this, it makes the integration of various points of view easier to accomplish.

- **Communication Skills**

One further area in which philosophy provides a significant contribution is the development of one's verbal and written communication abilities. It provides the ability for you to express



yourself in straightforward ways. For instance, the ability to articulate concepts by means of well written and logical reasoning is either almost entirely missing from or neglected in other fields of study. It increases one's ability to explain difficult subjects, helps one get rid of fuzziness in one's writing and speaking, and assists in communicating what makes one's viewpoint distinctive to others.

DISCUSSION

It is impossible to overestimate how much of an impact philosophy has on people's lives. The most fundamental aspects of our language already include philosophically grounded classifications. For example, the categories of noun and verb are based on the philosophical idea of a separation between things and actions. This idea lies at the core of the categories. A philosophical inquiry might be thought of as having its origin in the query "what is the difference?"

To name just a few of the numerous social organizations that are built on philosophical concepts, we may include the law, the government, religion, the family, marriage, trade, and education among them. Philosophy has been a source of contention throughout history, leading to the overthrow of governments, the creation of new laws, and the reorganization of whole economic systems. These transformations are the outcome of people's views about the nature of reality and the values that should be used to govern their lives. These convictions have been the driving force behind these shifts.

CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that many individuals have doubts about the relevance of philosophy, I think there are compelling arguments in favor of the subject's importance. Philosophy not only teaches us logic, which may significantly help in the process of developing our critical thinking skills, but it can also help us improve our own critical thinking talents. By studying philosophy, individuals may get a deeper understanding of their own views and be motivated to reflect on the most important questions that exist in life. The study of philosophy has the potential to transform a person into a well-rounded, cultured, and well-



rounded individual. He is able to critically examine, organize, and evaluate a massive amount of material after completing this course. As a result, it is essential to his whole development because it paves the way for him to live a life that is both individual and societal that is worthy of the dignity of man.

“Education without Philosophy is blind and Philosophy without Education is Invalid.”

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