

# A Study Of Philosophical Ideas and Educational Principles of Plato

**Miss Sarita**

*Assistant Professor, G.D. College of Education, Bhuna (Fatehabad)*

## **ABSTRACT**

Philosophy changes from person to person, varies from place to place and alters from time to time. The first special characteristic of philosophy is that it comes out of special circumstances & specific experience that is why different persons adopt different philosophies of life. Plato is one of the foremost thinkers of the world. He has not only a very important place in the history of European intellectualism but will also be remembered as one of the giants in the realm of advancement of human mind. Plato continues to be a vital force even today impelling noble thoughts and genial creativity. He was the true reflection of his age. Plato's educational theory emerges from his philosophical thinking. It is intimately connected with his views about education. In the present study an attempt is made to explain the education philosophy & principles of Plato.

***Keywords-philosophy, education.***

## **INTRODUCTION**

Plato has given education an important place in human life. He says in his law – “Education is the first and fairest thing the best of man can ever have”. According to Plato, it is the duty of state to provide for education. He wished that the state should prepare ideal citizens for the administration of the country through education. He held education at the highest place for physical, mental, emotional, social, moral character and spiritual development. He prescribes different ages for different types of education for the good of the individual and in the interest of the nation...

### **Statement of the Problem**

The problem proposed for investigation is “A Study of Philosophical Ideas and Educational Principles of Plato.”

### **Operational Definitions**

- **Education**

Educational means related with education more over the word education has been derived from the Latin word ‘Educere’ which means ‘to bring up’ or ‘to raise’. According to this view education is a process of

imparting to an individual certain information and knowledge which society deems necessary. It implies modification of behavior of the individual by imposing standards of society upon him.

## • **Philosophy**

The word Philosophy is derived from two Greek words 'Philos' and 'Sophia'. Philos means 'love' and Sophia means 'wisdom'. Thus Philosophy means love of wisdom. In this way search of wisdom or truth is called Philosophy.

## **II.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study would be conducted with the following objectives in view

- To find out the meaning of education and philosophy according to Plato .
- To find out the aims of education according to Plato .
- To find out the curriculum according to Plato.
- To find out the methods of teaching according to Plato.
- To find out the methods of discipline according to Plato.

## **III.EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF PLATO**

Plato is one of the foremost thinkers of the world. He has not only a very important place in the history of European intellectualism but will also be remembered as one of the giants in the realm of advancement of human mind. Plato continues to be a vital force even today impelling noble thoughts and genial creativity. He was the true reflection of his age.

Plato's educational theory emerges from his philosophical thinking. It is intimately connected with his views about the nature of the state and the end which the citizen should strive to attain. Thus, to estimate rightly the full significance of Plato's educational theory. One should, at first, study the development of his philosophical doctrine so that what he has to say on the subject of education will be revealed in its natural setting.

According to Plato's idealism, ideas are truth and ultimate reality. It is related and originated in our brain for the thoughts of our mind are based upon the senses and the nature of which is temporary. The objects available in the world are changeable and temporary but the ideal thinking never dies. For example, a beautiful rose, a beautiful picture are all beautiful and with the passage of time they will die, but the idea and thought of beauty will never die. Plato's theory of wisdom state that the knowledge obtained through senses and the opinion regarding any object are not the true knowledge. The highest degree of knowledge includes the virtues, truth, goodness and beauty. The characteristic of this knowledge is that it is found in the form of universal truth.

## IV.PLATO AND FUNCTION OF EDUCATION

Plato being an idealist, considered the end above the means and thought it proper to proceed from whole to the part. He recognized accomplishment of unit of the state as the main aim of education. During Plato's time the condition of Athens was miserable. The people were selfish and indisciplined. He wanted to unite them by bringing the citizens under control. He did not consider that freedom proper which made man indisciplined. According to him, man is the basis of the progress of the state. He wished that every citizen should serve the state forgetting his personal interest and should work for the unity of the state. There should be harmony and cordiality among citizens and they should consider the progress and unity of the state as the aim of their life. He wanted to organize education according to this view point.

## V.METHOD OF TEACHING

Plato advocates conversation method to be the best method for teaching the children this method is useful to give an individual free and self expression. Plato thinks that the child's interest in conversation is the greatest of all educational resources. This removes doubts of an individual.

## VI.PLATO AND DISCIPLINE

Plato wants to keep the child under discipline. He believes that there can be no spiritual development of the child without discipline and advocates impressionistic type of discipline. The teacher should first gain respect from the child by his affectionate and sympathetic behavior and should motivate him, keeping into control his undesirable activities, in such a way-that he begins to exercise and maintain self discipline for his own good and development.

## VII.ROLE OF TEACHER

In the realm of idealism, the role of teacher is very important and glorious. In reality, an idealist teacher is imbued fully with high degree of self knowledge, self-dynamism and essential qualities of spiritualism. By his own model of life, he tries to shape the individuality of the child to a life of purity. Virtue and great achievements.

## VIII.EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

For girls, Plato has recommended the learning of domestic work. He thought that industrial arts could be learnt by limitation. There was no need of giving any separate education for them only the necessary practice and habits could enable them to learn these arts easily. Plato did not consider women different from men. So he women weaker than men he writes. "For the patronage of state men and women are equal but woman is, no doubt, weaker in strength". Plato does not differentiate between the education of man and woman. Plato

believed that from the view point of establishing unity in the state service the standard of living of all should be similar. So he emphasizes the principle of similar child and similar education.

## IX.MORAL IDEALS OF PLATO

Plato wanted all the people to be ideal citizens. Throughout his life he engaged himself in this effort. According to him, morality means achieving virtues. Plato sees these moral ideals or virtues. In the form of qualities of soul which.

Include patience, justice, self restraint, intense comprehension, memory and high ideals which are based on psychological nature of man. According to Plato, desire can be controlled by self restraint. The quality of heart is patience and that of intelligence is knowledge.

### Impact of Plato's Educational Principles on Education

Plato's principles could not make impact on the education of his times, because people could not understand him. But these principles had begun to influence the life of people during the period before the birth of Christ. The life of people had begun to become philosophical, wise and aesthetic. He had imagined the existence of a truth beyond the physical world which gave philosophical guidance for the period of Christ. The impact of his principles is clearly visible in the middle age. The monasteries, schools and universities of that period spoke of 'Back to Plato'. We are unable to assess the greatness of valuable books like 'Republic' and 'Laws' because an ordinary person cannot understand them.

Plato has revealed to us a vast and exalted vision of human life. To him, the life of man has to be raised beyond more appetite satisfactions and hedonism. To advocate that man should spend thirty five years in a process of rigorous discipline and should perfect his sensibilities, moral habit, scientific understanding and rational powers of abstraction, may appear very difficult from the point of common place standards and criteria. But the Platonic idealism receives its justification in the transitoriness of the pleasures and pursuits of life. Even today in our practical life, none will deny the solid and permanent good that can be derived from the harmonious pursuit of gymnastic, literature, art, science and philosophy. The experiences derived from the pursuit of these are more satisfying and lasting, even if it may be difficult to accept the heavenly pattern of the ideal world.

In the developed civilization of today, Plato's Philosophical ideas and educational principles occupy an important place They acquaint man with high ideals when he is tired with the complexities of the world Plato lays stress on the purposiveness of life. He says that the life of man is not simply for eating and breeding, it is for loftier than this. Our aim should be to understand the truth of this life "Indeed, the chief. Aim of Plato's philosophy may be regarded as the attempt to re establish standards of thought and conduct for a civilization that seemed on the verge of dissolution".

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## Plato's Idealism

In general sense of the word idealism is based upon micro thinking and thoughts. This philosophy is in close proximity with Indian Vedant Darshan idealism was originated in Greece the pioneers of which were Socrate. Plato and Aristotle according to Plato ideas are truth and ultimate reality. This concept is the essence. According to Plato, it is related and originated in our brain for the thoughts of our mind are based upon the senses and the nature of which is temporary. Its fundamentals are based upon external events and they are changeable and temporary. so the thoughts, time and space are not the part of the world and are independent entities. According to Plato, the worldly objects are the concealed elements.

## Plato's views World

The second view of Plato's idea to have belief in world. Hence the first side of the world is the world of objects. According to him object- World, the presence of which is felt by senses is temporary and changeable. This is an illusion. The objects available in the world are changeable and temporary but the ideal thinking never dies. For example – a beautiful rose, a beautiful picture is all beautiful but with the passage of time they will die. However, the idea and thought of beauty will never die.

## Major Findings of the Study

- Plato is the staunch supports of physical, moral and spiritual development of the child.
- He has a broad international understanding and believes in the brotherhood of man.
- He emphasize an all round development of personality and nation can propose only when its citizens get proper education.
- Men and women should be treated equally in all respects in order to attain social harmony.

Plato theory of education is fundamentally based upon the doctrine of recollection. According to this doctrine all knowledge is recollection of what was experienced by the soul in its disembodied state before birth, the human soul which before being embodied was a member of the realm of ideas, has got on in the stamp of the universals. Thus though according to Plato, the human soul is not identical with the real it has within it the actual history of the real. In the transcendental level, knowledge is self realization, self awareness or self consciousness.

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