

## PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION: STRUCTURING AND PERSPECTIVES

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### **Abstract:**

The study of the philosophy of education into its multifaceted nature, encompassing foundations, scope, and fundamental propositions that shape educational studies. Philosophy serves as the essence of educational studies, influencing educators' perceptions of education's purpose and teaching methods. Its scope is vast, from metaphysical inquiries into reality to epistemological considerations about knowledge acquisition. The philosophical foundation of education, rooted in metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology, underpins educational practices. This foundation extends to exploring metaphysical questions about knowledge and education's purpose, considering axiology's values and ethics.

Its scope covers diverse perspectives like idealism, realism, pragmatism, existentialism, social reconstructionism, and progressivism. At its core, philosophy in education's basic propositions epistemology, metaphysics, and axiology provide a conceptual framework informing goals, methods, and ethical considerations. Epistemology guides knowledge acquisition, metaphysics explores reality's nature, and axiology addresses inherent educational values. Understanding philosophy's role in educational studies is crucial for educators and scholars. It fosters reflective practice, deepening appreciation for underlying principles shaping educational theories and practices. Philosophical foundations serve as a compass, guiding us towards meaningful, ethical, and purposeful educational experiences for learners. The study of Philosophy of Education holds a paramount significance in comprehending the underlying principles and diverse perspectives that shape educational systems worldwide. This study explores the complex subtleties of the topic in an effort to clarify the underlying ideas that shape its organization and the major philosophical stances that have an impact on its advancement. By addressing these inquiries, this research endeavors to contribute to the enhancement of pedagogical practices and the refinement of educational philosophies in contemporary educational discourse.

*Keywords:* Philosophy of education, foundational principles, philosophical perspectives, Structuring, Quality Parameters, Interpretive model, Pedagogical model, Curriculum implementation

## Introduction:

Education is not merely the acquisition of knowledge, but a transformative journey shaping minds and societies. At its core lies the philosophy of education, a framework that guides and reflects on this very journey. This framework encompasses diverse aspects, weaving together - a tapestry of mission, vision, objectives, curriculum, pedagogy, and the roles of teachers and organizations. It further embraces innovative practices, social extension, humanistic development, and epistemological perspectives, culminating in a holistic understanding of education's purpose and value. To embark on this exploration, we begin with the foundational elements - mission and vision. These define the overarching aspirations and guiding principles that illuminate the path ahead.

Next, we deepen into objectives, outlining the concrete steps designed to achieve the desired outcomes. The curriculum, acting as the map, serves as the repository of knowledge and experiences tailored to these objectives. But knowledge alone is insufficient. Pedagogy, the art of teaching, breathes life into the curriculum, facilitating effective learning through diverse methodologies and strategies. Within this dynamic, the role of the teacher transforms from mere instruction to nurturing, mentoring, and inspiring young minds. Beyond the classroom walls, education extends its reach. Organizational perspectives explore into the structures, policies, and processes that govern educational institutions, ensuring smooth operation and fostering collaboration. Innovative practices push the boundaries of traditional methods, embracing new technologies and approaches to enhance learning experiences. Education transcends mere academic pursuits. Social extension bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, enabling students to contribute meaningfully to society. Humanistic development focuses on nurturing well-rounded individuals, fostering values, ethics, and social responsibility.

Considering all these aspects lies an epistemological perspective, the philosophical lens through which knowledge is understood and acquired. Examining different perspectives, from empiricism to constructivism, allows for a deeper understanding of how we learn and grow. Valuing educational perspectives recognizes the inherent diversity of approaches and philosophies. By appreciating these varied viewpoints, we enrich our understanding of education's multifaceted nature and its potential to empower individuals and

communities. Thus, by exploring these interconnected components, we gain a comprehensive understanding of the philosophy of education. It is not a static set of rules, but a dynamic conversation, an ongoing quest to refine and improve the process of learning and transformation for all.

**Statement of the problem:**

The current study aims to uncover the fundamental ideas that form Philosophy of Education and the major philosophical stances that influence Philosophy of Education. So that the researcher chose to refer to the topic as “**Philosophy of Education: Structuring and Perspectives**”.

**Methodology:**

This study was based on documentary analysis and qualitative inquiry.

**Research Questions:**

- What are the foundational principles guiding the structuring of Philosophy of Education?
- What are the key philosophical perspectives shaping Philosophy of Education?

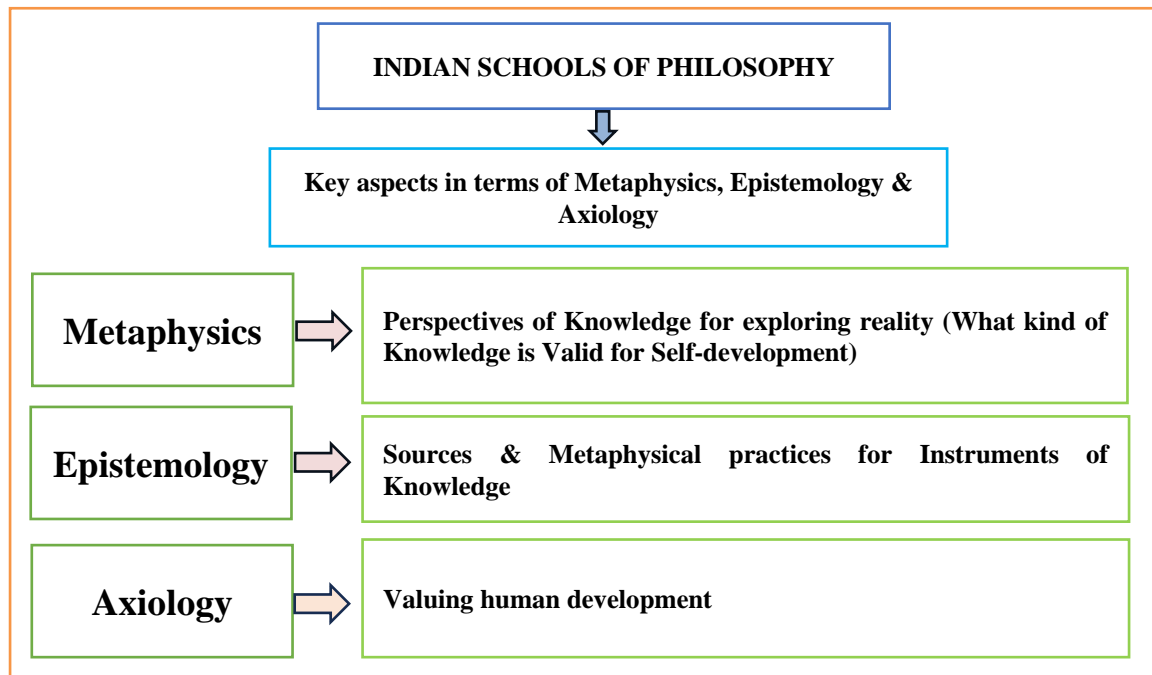
❖ **Philosophy of Education: Components**

The philosophy of education encompasses a broad spectrum of ideas, theories, and beliefs about the purpose and nature of education. It serves as a guiding framework for educational institutions, educators, and policymakers to shape their practices and approaches. Let's delve into the components of the philosophy of education:

<b>Philosophy of Education/Components</b>
1. Mission and Vision
2. Objectives
3. Curriculum
4. Pedagogy
5. Role of Teacher
6. Organizational Perspectives
7. Innovative Practices
8. Social Extension
9. Humanistic Development
10. Epistemological Perspective
11. Valuing Educational Perspectives.

### 1. **Mission and Vision:**

At the core of any educational institution is its mission and vision. These statements define the purpose, values, and goals that guide all activities within the institution. The mission outlines the fundamental reason for the existence of the institution, while the vision provides



a futuristic perspective of what the institution aspires to achieve.

**Metaphysics related to Perspectives of Knowledge:** Indian philosophy often emphasizes the concept of self-realization or self-development as the ultimate aim of human life. Metaphysically, there's a belief in the existence of an ultimate reality (Brahman in Vedanta, Sunyata in Buddhism) that underlies the phenomenal world. Valid knowledge for self-development is seen as that which leads to the understanding of this ultimate reality and the realization of one's true self. This knowledge is often described as intuitive, experiential, and transcendent, going beyond mere intellectual understanding.

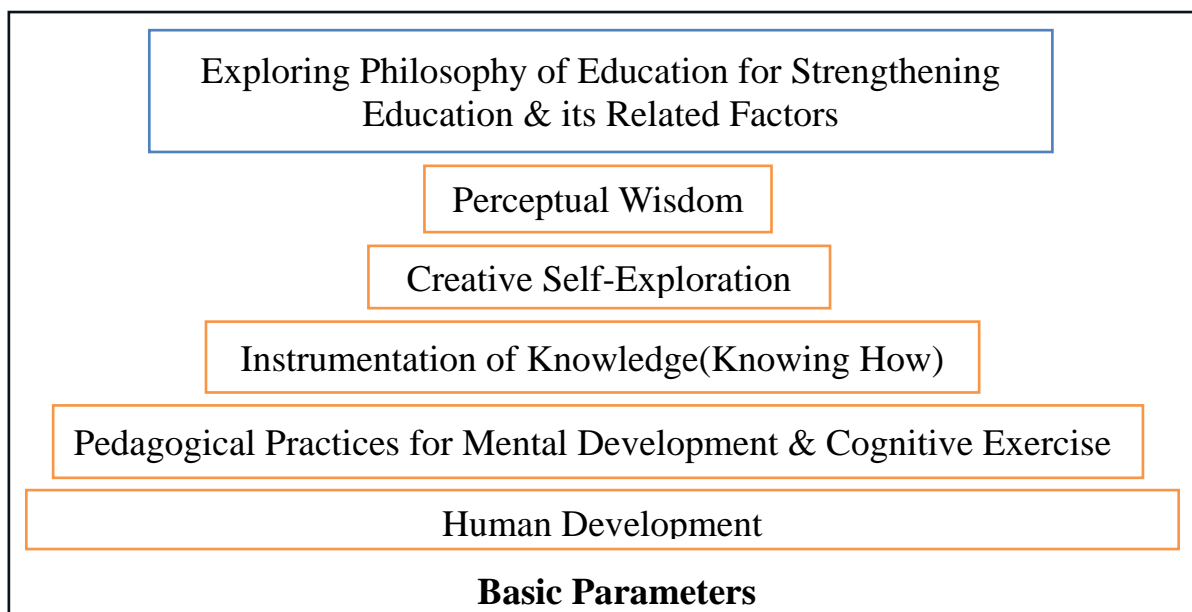
**Epistemology related to Sources of Knowledge:** Indian philosophical traditions recognize multiple sources of knowledge, including perception (pratyaksha), inference (anumana), testimony (shabda), and direct experience or intuition (anubhava). These sources are not seen as mutually exclusive but rather as complementary ways of acquiring knowledge. Education in Indian philosophy aims to cultivate these different faculties of knowing, with a particular emphasis on direct experience and intuition, which are considered crucial for gaining insight

into deeper truths. Alongside traditional educational methods such as teaching and study, Indian philosophical traditions advocate various metaphysical practices such as meditation, contemplation, and yoga. These practices are viewed as instruments for refining the mind, cultivating clarity, and accessing higher states of consciousness. In the context of education, they serve to enhance the capacity for intuitive understanding and self-realization.

**Axiology related to Valuing Human Development for Accelerating Cognitive Development:** Indian philosophy places a high value on human development, not only in terms of cognitive growth but also in terms of moral, emotional, and spiritual evolution. Education is seen as a holistic process aimed at nurturing all dimensions of the individual, fostering qualities such as compassion, wisdom, and inner harmony. The acceleration of cognitive development is viewed as a means to the broader end of self-realization and the fulfilment of one's potential as a human being.

## **2. Objectives in the light of Educational Philosophy:**

In exploring the philosophy of education for strengthening education and its related factors such as human development, pedagogical practices for mental development and cognitive exercise, instrumentation of knowledge (knowing how), creative self-exploration, and



perceptual wisdom, it's essential to consider how educational objectives align with these components.

**Human Development:** Educational objectives should aim to foster holistic human development, encompassing physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth. This involves nurturing students' cognitive abilities, emotional intelligence, social skills, and physical well-being.

**Pedagogical Practices for Mental Development and Cognitive Exercise:** Educational objectives should prioritize mental development and cognitive exercise by promoting critical thinking, problem-solving skills, analytical reasoning, and creativity. Pedagogical practices should engage students in challenging tasks that stimulate their intellect and encourage them to explore diverse perspectives.

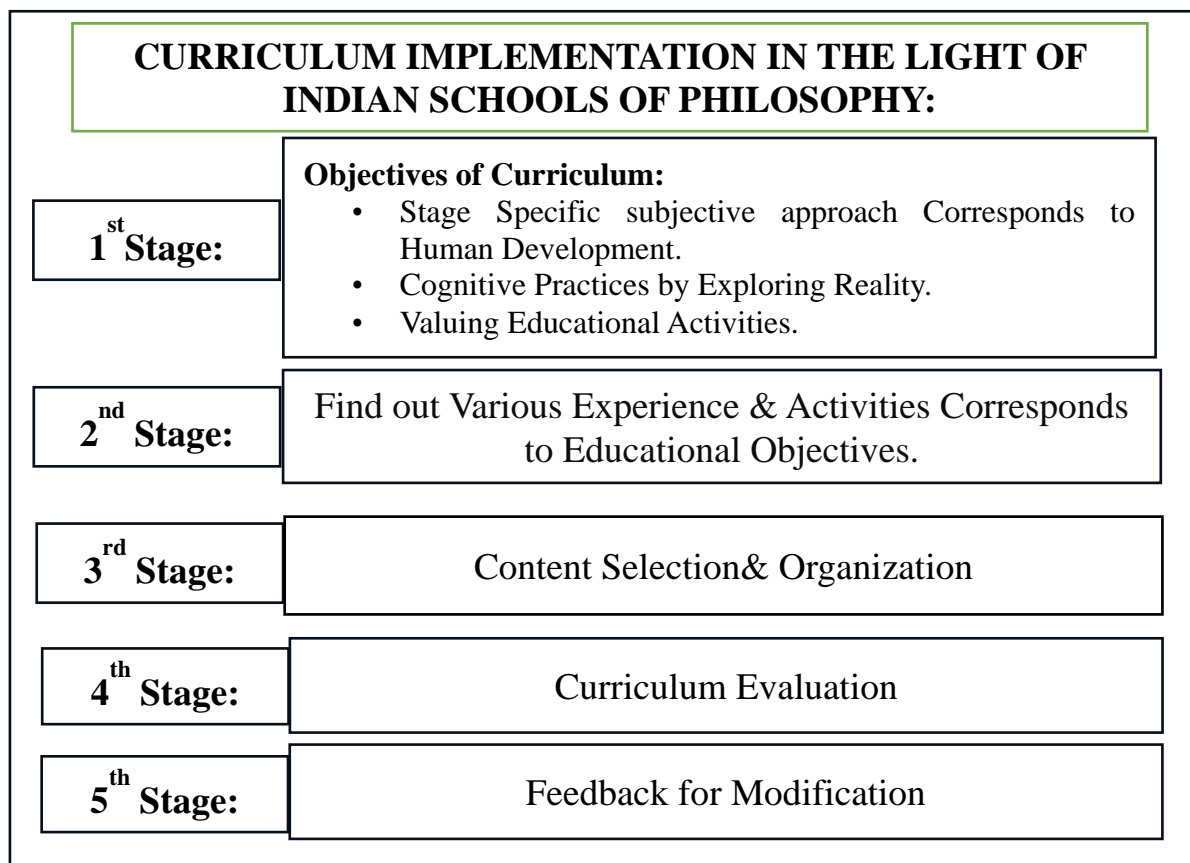
**Instrumentation of Knowledge (Knowing How):** Objectives related to instrumentation of knowledge focus on equipping students with practical skills and competencies that enable them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world contexts. This involves emphasizing experiential learning, hands-on activities, and opportunities for students to practice and refine their skills.

**Creative Self-Exploration:** Educational objectives should encourage students to engage in creative self-exploration, fostering their curiosity, imagination, and self-expression. This involves providing opportunities for students to pursue their interests, experiment with different ideas, and express themselves through various forms of art, literature, and innovation.

**Perceptual Wisdom:** Objectives related to perceptual wisdom aim to cultivate students' ability to perceive and interpret the world around them critically. This involves developing their capacity for reflective thinking, self-awareness, empathy, and moral reasoning. Educational practices should encourage students to question assumptions, consider multiple perspectives, and make informed decisions based on ethical principles.

### 3. Curriculum in the light of Educational Philosophy:

The Philosophy of Education, particularly when viewed through the lens of Indian schools of philosophy, can deeply influence the various stages of curriculum implementation outlined



below:

**1st Stage - Objectives of Curriculum:** Stage-Specific Subjective Approach Corresponds to Human Development, Cognitive Practices by Exploring Reality, Valuing Educational Activities: Indian schools of philosophy, such as Vedanta, Buddhism, Jainism, etc., often emphasize holistic human development, including spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth. These philosophies advocate for a subjective approach to education that recognizes the uniqueness of each individual's learning journey. Curriculum objectives in this stage would align with fostering human development by engaging learners in cognitive practices that explore reality from various perspectives. Furthermore, educational activities would be valued not just for their academic content but also for their contribution to the holistic development of the learner.

**2nd Stage - Find out Various Experience & Activities Corresponds to Educational Objectives:** This stage resonates with the Indian philosophical emphasis on experiential learning. Indian philosophies often encourage learning through direct experience and



reflection. The curriculum implementation would involve designing experiences and activities that align with the educational objectives identified in the first stage. These experiences would allow learners to engage with the material in meaningful ways that facilitate deeper understanding and personal growth.

**3rd Stage - Content Selection & Organization:** Indian philosophical traditions provide rich repositories of knowledge and wisdom that can inform the selection and organization of curriculum content. For example, the curriculum might draw from ancient texts, philosophical treatises, and cultural traditions to create a curriculum that reflects a holistic understanding of the world. Additionally, the curriculum would be organized in a way that respects the interconnectedness of knowledge and promotes a multidisciplinary approach to learning.

**4th Stage - Curriculum Evaluation:** Evaluation in the context of Indian philosophical perspectives on education would go beyond traditional metrics of academic achievement. It would involve assessing the extent to which the curriculum has facilitated the holistic development of the learner, including their intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth. Evaluation methods might include self-reflection, peer feedback, and assessments that measure not just knowledge acquisition but also critical thinking skills, ethical development, and interpersonal competencies.

**5th Stage - Feedback for Modification:**

Feedback in this stage would be used to iteratively improve the curriculum based on insights gained from the evaluation process. Drawing on Indian philosophical principles of continuous learning and adaptation, educators would use feedback to refine the curriculum to better meet the needs of learners and align with the overarching goals of education as understood within Indian philosophical frameworks.

**4. Pedagogy:**

The Philosophy of Education encompasses the fundamental beliefs and principles underlying educational practices and goals. It provides the theoretical foundation upon which pedagogy is built. Each component of pedagogy you've mentioned can be seen as a practical application or manifestation of certain aspects of the Philosophy of Education:



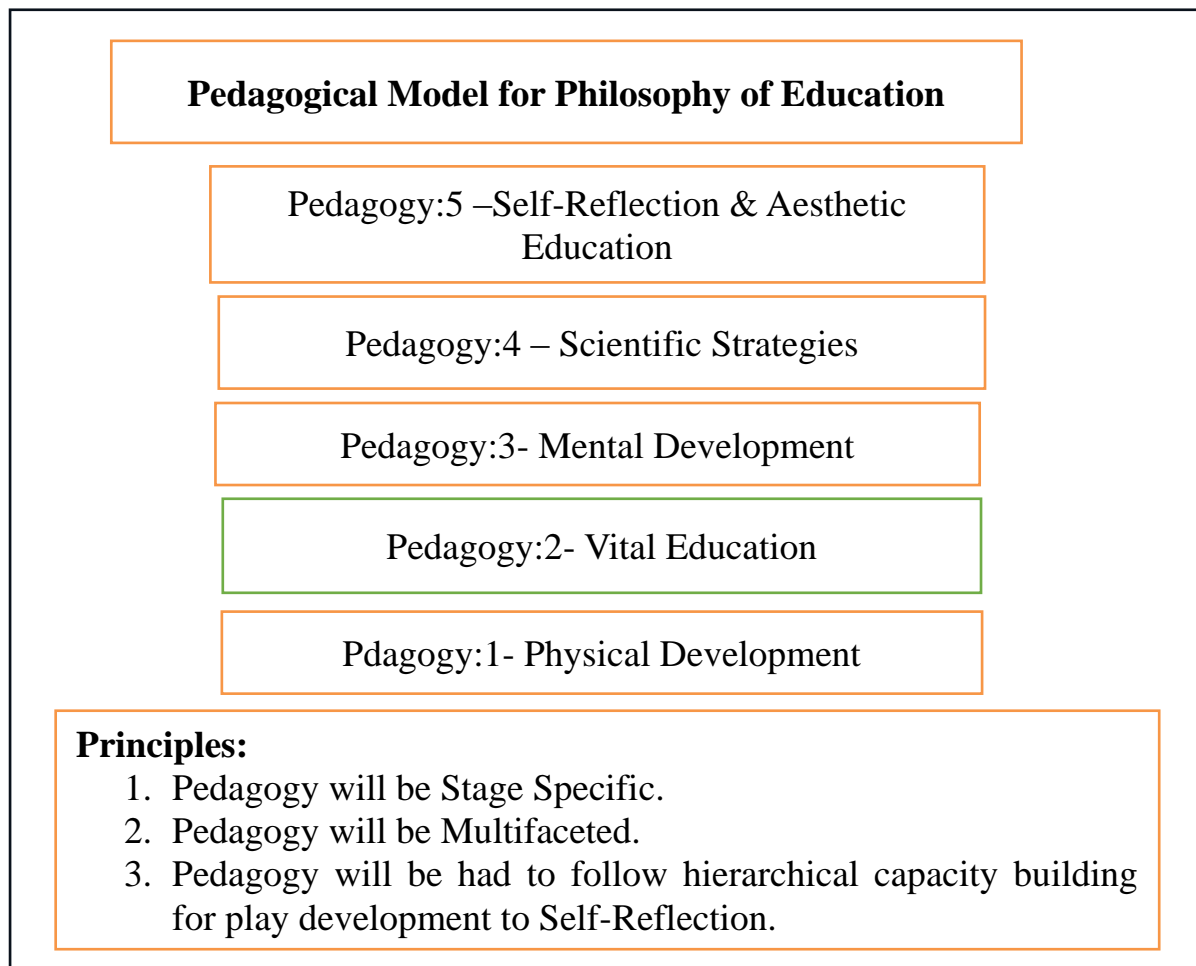
**Physical Development (Pedagogy-Stage 1):** This component of pedagogy aligns with the philosophy that education should foster physical well-being and growth. It emphasizes activities and practices that promote physical health and development, such as exercise, sports, and proper nutrition.

**Vital Education (Pedagogy-Stage- 2):** This component corresponds to the philosophy that education should not only focus on intellectual development but also on the development of essential life skills, values, and character traits necessary for leading a fulfilling and purposeful life.

**Mental Development (Pedagogy-Stage 3):** This component relates to the philosophy that education should stimulate cognitive growth and intellectual capacities. It involves activities and strategies aimed at enhancing critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills.

**Scientific Strategies (Pedagogy-Stage 4):** This component emphasizes the use of evidence-based practices and methodologies in education. It aligns with the philosophy that educational practices should be informed by scientific research and data, ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in teaching and learning.

**Self-reflection & Aesthetic Education (Pedagogy-Stage 5):** This component corresponds to the philosophy that education should cultivate self-awareness, introspection, and appreciation for the arts and beauty. It involves activities and experiences that encourage students to



reflect on their thoughts, feelings, and experiences, as well as to engage with various forms of artistic expression.

**The guiding principles you provided also play a significant role in shaping pedagogy:**

**Stage Specific:** This principle emphasizes the importance of tailoring educational approaches and strategies to the developmental stage and needs of the learners. It aligns with the philosophy that education should be individualized and responsive to the unique characteristics and abilities of each student.

**Multifaceted:** This principle underscores the idea that education is a complex and multifaceted process that involves various dimensions, including physical, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects. It supports the philosophy that education should be holistic and comprehensive, addressing all aspects of human development.

**Hierarchical Capacity Building:** This principle suggests a progression from foundational skills and capacities to more advanced ones, following a hierarchical structure. It aligns with the philosophy that education should be structured and scaffolded, guiding students through successive stages of learning and development.

## **5. Role of teacher:**

The role of the teacher in the philosophy of education is crucial for the realization of these components:

### **A. More committed towards Institution and Students:**

Teachers should demonstrate dedication and loyalty to the institution and the students they serve, fostering a sense of belonging and support within the educational community.

### **B. Searching for Knowledge is having a priority:**

Teachers should prioritize the pursuit of knowledge both for themselves and their students, fostering a culture of curiosity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning within the classroom.

### **C. Well Disciplined:**

Teachers should model and instill discipline, demonstrating self-control, respect, and responsibility in their actions and interactions with students.

### **D. Preferably residential when it is guided by philosophical orientation:**

Teachers in residential institutions play a significant role in creating a nurturing and supportive environment for students, serving as mentors, guides, and role models beyond the classroom.

### **E. Self-Dependent and activity oriented:**

Teachers should encourage self-reliance and independence in students, designing activities and experiences that promote hands-on learning, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.

### **F. Systematic Evaluation system:**

Teachers should implement a systematic and well-organized evaluation system, using formative assessment strategies to monitor student progress, provide timely feedback, and adapt instruction to meet individual needs.

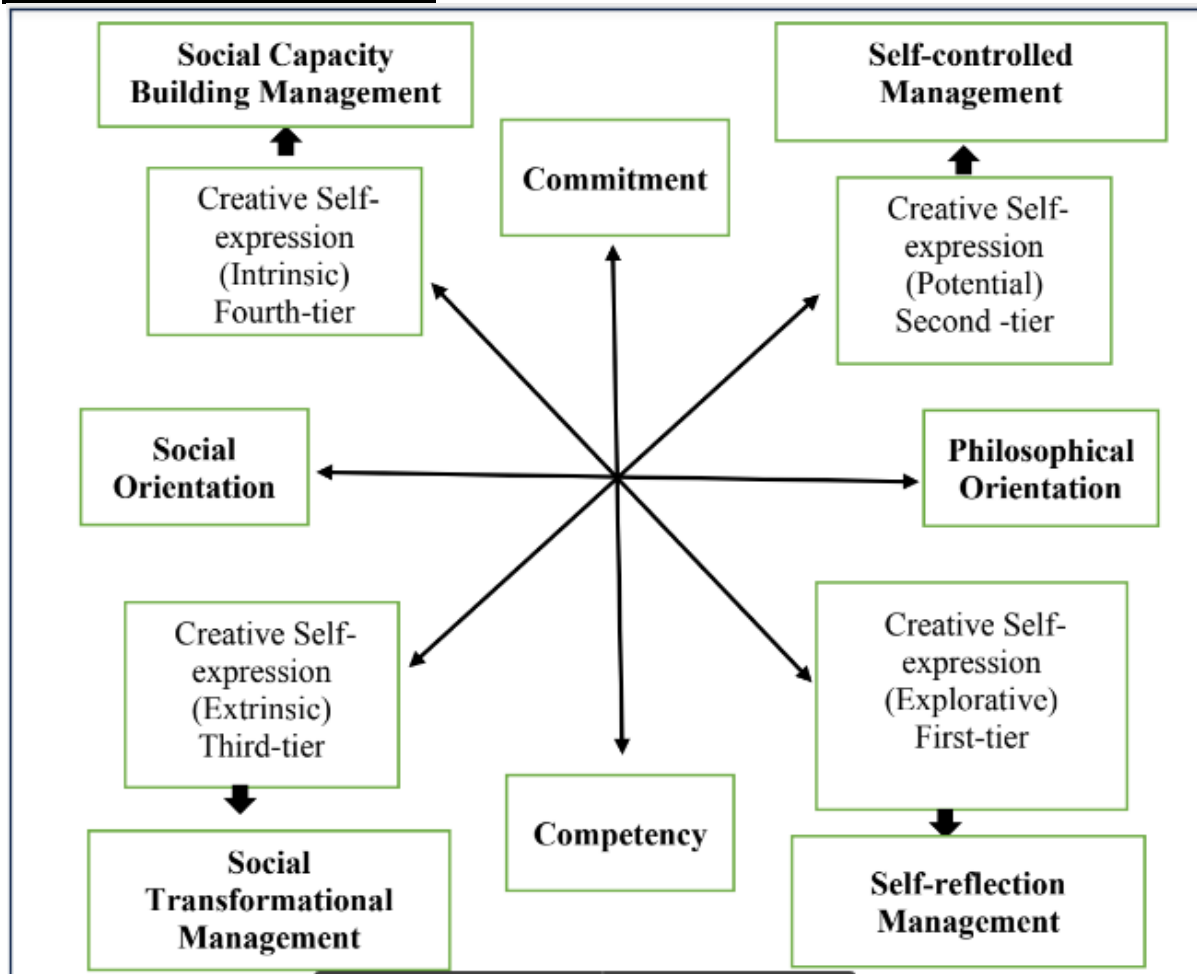
### **G. Mental structure is well advanced and positively oriented:**

Teachers should cultivate a positive mindset and intellectual rigor in themselves and their students, fostering a growth mindset, resilience, and a willingness to embrace challenges and overcome obstacles.

### H. Attitude development towards a perfection is a Key Aspect for Self-oriented Model of Teaching and Learning:

Teachers should promote a culture of continuous improvement and excellence, encouraging students to strive for personal and academic growth, setting high expectations, and providing the support and guidance needed to achieve their full potential.

### 6. Organizational Perspectives:

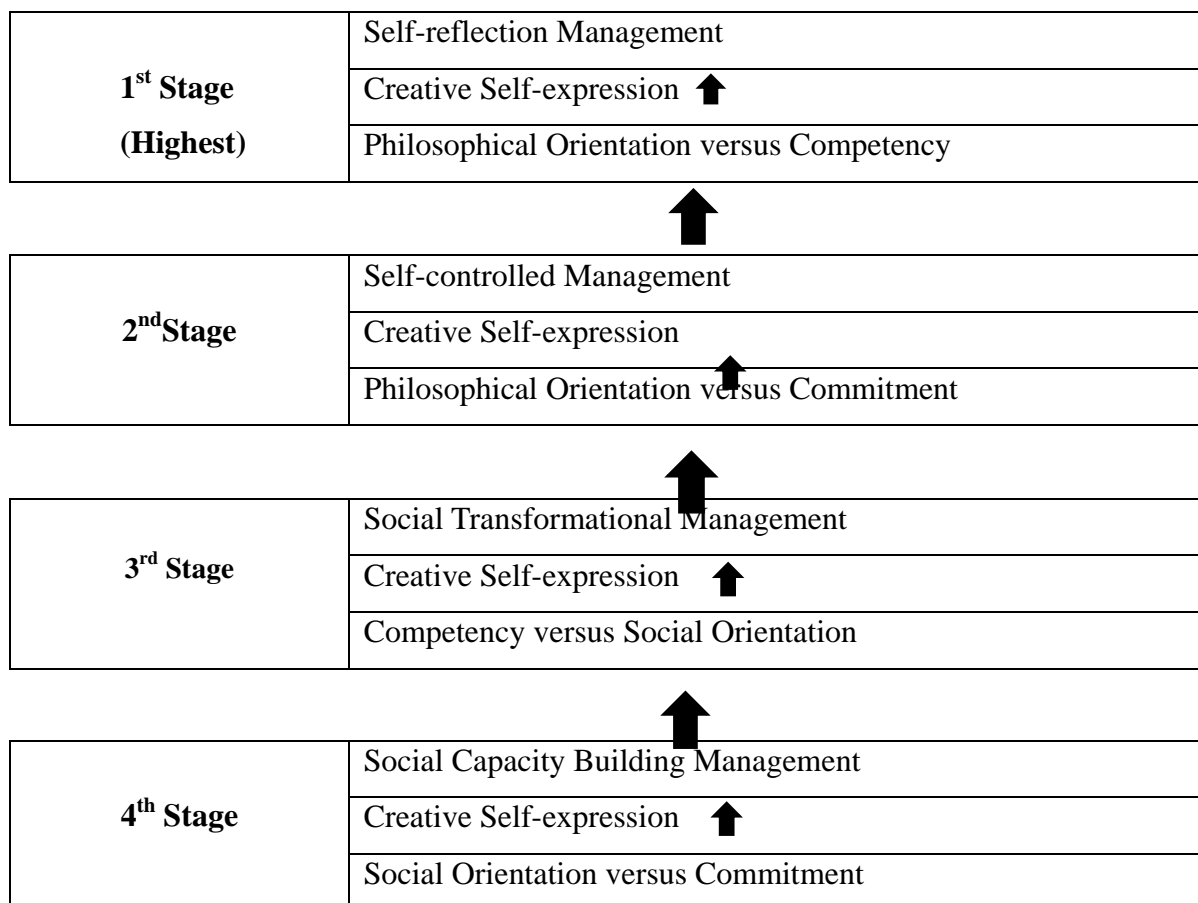


#### Interpretation:

- In the initial stage of the proposed framework, denoted as the highest tier, emphasis is placed on self-reflection management and creative self-expression, juxtaposed with the consideration of philosophical orientation vis-à-vis competency within the educational context.
- In the subsequent stage, characterized as the second tier, the focus shifts towards self-controlled management and continued cultivation of creative self-expression,

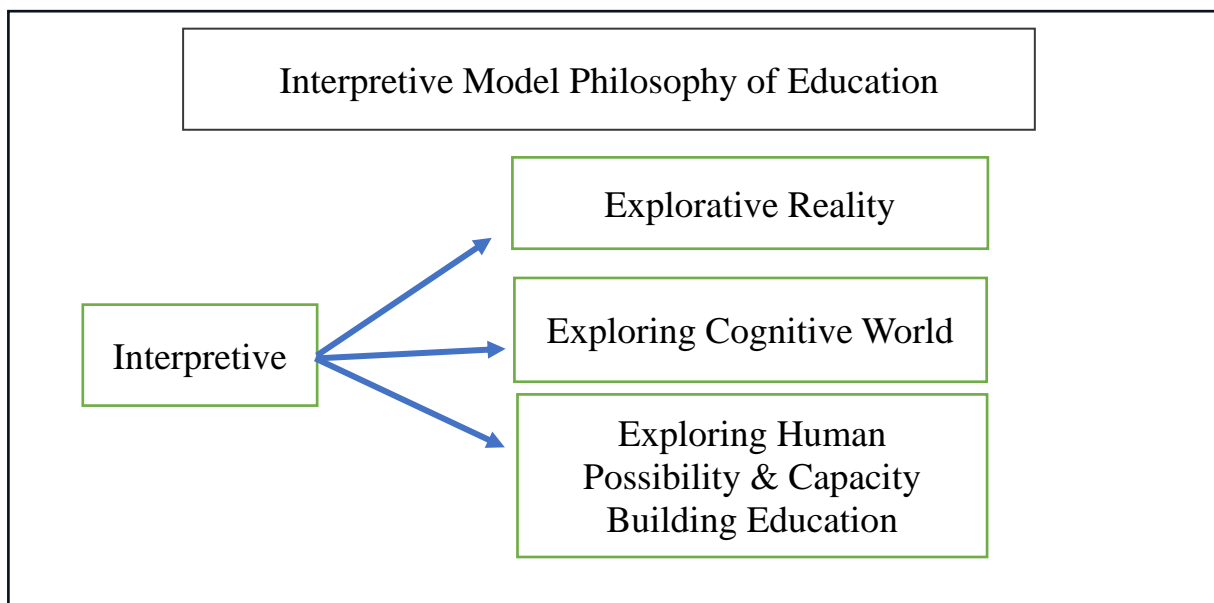
juxtaposed with the examination of philosophical orientation in relation to commitment within the educational realm.

- In the third developmental stage, identified as the third tier, the emphasis is placed on social transformational management alongside the sustained cultivation of creative self-expression, juxtaposed with the evaluation of competency in contrast to social orientation within the educational domain.
- In the final stage of progression, designated as the fourth tier, the focal point is on social capacity building management, coupled with the ongoing encouragement of creative self-expression, juxtaposed with the examination of social orientation in relation to commitment within the educational framework.



### **7. Innovative practices:**

The philosophy of education encompasses various approaches and perspectives on how education should be structured, conducted, and understood. One innovative practice within



this field is the Interpretive Model Philosophy of Education, which emphasizes interpretation, exploration, and capacity building. Let's break down its elements:

**Interpretive-Explorative Reality:** This element highlights the importance of understanding and interpreting reality through exploration and inquiry rather than passive acceptance. It encourages students to critically analyze the world around them, question assumptions, and seek deeper meaning in their experiences.

**Exploring Cognitive World:** This aspect focuses on the exploration and understanding of cognitive processes, including perception, reasoning, problem-solving, and creativity. It emphasizes the development of cognitive skills and strategies through active engagement with various subjects and disciplines.

**Exploring Human Possibility:** This element emphasizes the exploration of human potential and the possibilities for growth, development, and self-actualization. It encourages students to explore their interests, passions, and talents while also fostering a sense of curiosity, agency, and resilience.

**Capacity Building Education:** This component underscores the importance of education as a means of building and enhancing individual capacities, including intellectual, emotional, social, and practical skills. It focuses on empowering students to reach their full potential and become active, engaged participants in society.

### **8. Social Extension:**

The philosophy of education component "Social Extension" is closely related to the concepts you mentioned:

**a. Educational Development through Social Empowerment:** Social extension in philosophy of education emphasizes the importance of education as a tool for social empowerment. It recognizes that education is not just about individual development but also about contributing positively to society. By fostering social empowerment through education, individuals are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to engage meaningfully in their communities, challenge social injustices, and work towards positive societal change.

**b. Pragmatic Experience:** Social extension in philosophy of education encourages learning through practical, real-world experiences. Pragmatic experiences provide students with opportunities to engage directly with societal issues, interact with diverse communities, and apply theoretical knowledge in practical contexts. Through pragmatic experiences, students develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and a deeper understanding of social dynamics, which are essential for social empowerment.

**c. Economic Empowerment through Collaborative and Cooperative Activity:** Social extension also highlights the importance of collaborative and cooperative activities in education for economic empowerment. By promoting collaboration, students learn the value of teamwork, communication, and shared responsibility, which are essential skills in the modern workforce. Additionally, collaborative activities can foster innovation, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship, contributing to economic development at both individual and societal levels.

### **9. Humanistic Development:**

The Philosophy of Education component "Humanistic Development" is related to various aspects of education and learning:

**a. Holistic Development:** Humanistic Development in education emphasizes the holistic development of learners, which means focusing on their intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual well-being. It acknowledges that individuals are complex beings and



advocates for an educational approach that nurtures all aspects of their development rather than focusing solely on academic achievements.

**b. Behavioral Development:** Humanistic Development also relates to behavioral development in education by recognizing the importance of fostering positive attitudes, values, and behaviors in learners. It emphasizes creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment that encourages students to develop empathy, cooperation, and ethical decision-making skills.

**c. Values on Potentiality of Learners:** This aspect highlights the belief that every learner has unique potential and capabilities that should be recognized, respected, and nurtured. Humanistic Development in education promotes an individualized approach to learning that seeks to unleash the full potential of each student, rather than imposing uniform standards or expectations.

**d. Man-making Education:** Humanistic Development aligns with the concept of "man-making education," which focuses on shaping individuals into well-rounded, morally upright, and socially responsible human beings. It emphasizes the importance of character development, self-discovery, and personal growth alongside academic learning.

### **10. Epistemological Perspective:**

<b>Philosophical Components</b>	<b>Educational Components</b>
<b>Perception</b>	<b>Development of senses</b>
<b>Inference</b>	<b>Problem Solving</b>
<b>Comparison</b>	<b>Comparative Methodology</b>
<b>Testimony</b>	<b>Verbal Communication</b>
<b>Postulation</b>	<b>Tentative Solution</b>
<b>Non-Perception</b>	<b>Innovative Practices</b>

**Perception related to Development of Senses:** This aligns with empiricism, which emphasizes the role of sensory experience in acquiring knowledge. Empiricists argue that knowledge comes primarily through sensory perception.

**Inference related to Problem Solving:** This can be related to rationalism, which emphasizes the role of reason and logical inference in acquiring knowledge. Rationalists argue that some knowledge is innate and can be accessed through reasoning.

**Comparison related to Comparative Methodology:** Comparative methodology might relate to both empiricism and rationalism. Empirically, comparisons can be made based on observed phenomena. Rationally, comparisons can be made through logical deductions.

**Testimony related to Verbal Communication:** This can be seen as related to social constructivism, which suggests that knowledge is constructed through social interaction and communication. Testimony from others contributes to one's understanding and construction of knowledge.

**Postulates related to Tentative Solutions:** This might relate to pragmatism, which emphasizes practical consequences and utility in determining the validity of knowledge claims. Postulates can serve as tentative solutions that are tested and refined through practical application.

**Non-Perception related to Innovative Practices:** This could relate to various perspectives depending on the nature of the innovation. For example, it might align with rationalism if the innovation is based on abstract reasoning or with pragmatism if it's based on practical utility.

### **11. Valuing Educational Perspectives:**

<b>Phases</b>	<b>Stages</b>
<b>Developmental Phase -1</b>	<b>Mental Preparatory Stage</b>
<b>Developmental Phase -2</b>	<b>Judgmental Stage</b>
<b>Developmental Phase -3</b>	<b>Self-Developmental Stage</b>
<b>Developmental Phase -4</b>	<b>Aesthetic Internalization</b>
<b>Developmental Phase -5</b>	<b>Social Preparedness</b>
<b>Developmental Phase -6</b>	<b>Upgraded Mind Set</b>

**Developmental Phase – (1) Mental Preparatory Stage:** During this phase, individuals are laying the groundwork for their educational journey. Valuing educational perspectives at this stage involves fostering curiosity, openness to new ideas, and an appreciation for diverse

ways of thinking and learning. It's about instilling a sense of the importance of education and the various perspectives it encompasses.

**Developmental Phase – (2) Judgmental Stage:** As individuals progress to the judgmental stage, they begin to develop their critical thinking skills and formulating their own opinions and judgments. Valuing educational perspectives here involves encouraging students to critically evaluate different educational theories, methodologies, and perspectives. It's about teaching them to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches and to make informed judgments based on evidence and reasoning.

**Developmental Phase – (3) Self Developmental Stage:** In this phase, individuals are focusing on their own personal growth and development. Valuing educational perspectives here involves helping students understand how different educational perspectives can contribute to their own growth and development. It's about encouraging them to reflect on their own learning experiences and to consider how different approaches can help them achieve their goals and fulfill their potential.

**Developmental Phase – (4) Aesthetic Internalization:** As individuals internalize aesthetic values and appreciate beauty in education, valuing educational perspectives in this phase involves fostering an appreciation for the beauty and depth of different educational perspectives. It's about helping students see the inherent value in diverse ways of thinking and learning and encouraging them to engage with education as a lifelong journey of discovery and growth.

**Developmental Phase – (5) Social Preparedness:** In this phase, individuals are preparing to engage with society and contribute to their communities. Valuing educational perspectives here involves helping students understand the social and cultural dimensions of education and appreciate the importance of diversity and inclusion. It's about preparing them to engage with people from different backgrounds and perspectives and to contribute positively to society.

**Developmental Phase – (6) Upgraded Mindset:** As individuals develop an upgraded mindset characterized by adaptability, resilience, and a commitment to lifelong learning, valuing educational perspectives involves recognizing the importance of continued growth

and development. It's about fostering a mindset of curiosity, exploration, and innovation and encouraging students to seek out new educational perspectives and experiences throughout their lives.

### **Findings and Conclusion:**

The paper has an intension to explore Philosophical thoughts in terms of Philosophy of Education and it has been classified into eleven categories and the paper able to justify all the view points in terms of Educational Perspectives. It is not very easy to explore philosophy with respect to educational practices but till a structural presentation have been submitted to fulfil the objectives of the topic and it was presented in a categorical basis and in the form of tabular presentation throughout the paper.

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