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## ROLE OF PHILOSOPHY IN HUMAN LIFE

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### Abstract

*When people first start utilising reason rather than trusting religious dogma or other forms of authority in their quest to comprehend the universe, this is the beginning of philosophy. The majority of us lead lives that are full of activities and responsibilities that keep us busy and occupied throughout the day. However, every once in a while we find ourselves taking a step back and pondering the bigger picture and wondering what it's all about. Then, perhaps we will begin the practise of asking basic questions that, under normal circumstances, we do not pause to consider. The development of one's expressive and communication abilities is significantly aided by the study of philosophy. It supplies some of the fundamental instruments for self-expression, such as abilities in expressing ideas through well-constructed and methodical arguments, that other areas either do not employ at all or use to a much lesser extent than it does.*

**keywords:** *philosophy, human life*

### INTRODUCTION

Wonder is the starting point for philosophical inquiry. Every human being has the capacity to wonder about God, the world, and even themselves. Philosophy in ancient Greece was primarily concerned with marvelling at the cosmic facts that surrounded the ancient Greeks. Nevertheless, after we entered the Middle Ages, there was a change in philosophical attention towards God. But with the Renaissance and Reformation, which ushered in the next era of philosophical thinking, and more specifically with Descartes' philosophy, the primary focus of philosophy changed to become the human being. This does not imply that early thinkers were ignorant of the significance of developing a healthy appreciation for the human being. In point of fact, we see that Socrates and only a handful of other intellectuals strove to comprehend the human being. As a result of the development of experimental sciences in the contemporary era, the human person has emerged as the primary and exclusive focus of a wide range of academic fields, including sociology, anthropology, political science, and psychoanalysis, amongst others. There is a movement towards anthropology these days, even within the realm of theology. However, the methodology and focus of Philosophy of the Human Person is rather distinct from



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those of the aforementioned disciplines, which we will go into further detail about in a later stage.

The term "philosophy of the human person" refers to an attempt to integrate different approaches of interpreting human activity, namely how people behave as both creatures of their social circumstances and makers of their own ideals. This can be understood in a broad sense. Although it is true that the majority of philosophers throughout the history of philosophy can be said to have a distinctive 'anthropology' that underpins their thought, the Philosophy of Human Person itself, as a specific discipline within philosophy, emerged within the later modern period as an outgrowth from developing methods in philosophy, such as phenomenology and existentialism. The former, which derives its energy from systematic reflection on human experience (first person perspective), as well as from the philosopher's own personal experience, helped naturally facilitate the development of philosophical analyses of human nature and the human situation. The latter, which focuses primarily on interpersonal connections and the ontology that arises in the course of these interactions, was another factor that contributed to the development of Philosophy of the Human Person. The study of how two people, subjects, whose experiences and perceptions of the world are profoundly different may come to understand each other and relate to each other is an important aspect of these interactions and is known as inter-subjectivity. Among these relationships, inter-subjectivity is a key theme.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN PERSON AND OTHER DISCIPLINES**

The field of study known as Philosophy of the Human Person focuses on investigating human beings. In addition to psychoanalysis, sociology, archaeology, linguistics, and political science, there are a great number of scientific disciplines that focus on the study of human beings. What sets Philosophy of the Human Person apart from all of these other disciplines is its focus on the human person. In order to provide a response to this issue, let us now study the subject matter of these disciplines in more detail. The Austrian physician Sigmund Freud is credited with developing the psychoanalytic school of thought, although others have continued his work. Although it is primarily concerned with the investigation of individual psychological functioning and behaviour, it is capable of being used to the study of societies as well. It is a way of investigating the mind, a systematised collection of beliefs about human behaviour, and a means of treating psychological or emotional sickness. Psychiatry is a branch of the social sciences that focuses on human behaviour. The discipline of sociology is a part of the social sciences that makes use of methodical approaches to empirical study and critical analysis in order to produce and enhance a body of information about human social structure and



behaviour. Sometimes, the end objective of sociological research is to use this knowledge in order to further the cause of social welfare. Its subject matter extends all the way from the minute level of interactions that take place face to face to the enormous level of civilizations as a whole.

Archaeology is the study of human material culture, which encompasses not just artefacts (ancient elements of human culture) painstakingly obtained in situ but also museum pieces, current waste, and other such things. Archaeologists collaborate extensively with art historians, anthropologists who study biological remains, physics laboratories (used for dating), and museums. They are often housed in museums since they are tasked with the responsibility of conserving the findings of their excavations. 'Digs,' also known as excavations, are the primary activity that most people connect with archaeologists. The Palaeolithic, the Neolithic, and the Bronze Age are some examples of cultural periods that archaeologists divide time into based on the long-lasting artefacts that have been discovered. The study of language is referred to as linguistics. Linguistic Anthropology, also known as Anthropological Linguistics, is a field of study that aims to understand the processes of human communication, both verbal and nonverbal, as well as the variety in language that occurs throughout time and geography, the social applications of language, and the link that exists between language and culture. This subfield of anthropology applies linguistic approaches to the study of anthropological issues. It does so by establishing a connection between the study of language forms and processes and the interpretation of sociocultural processes. The theory and practise of politics, as well as the description and study of political systems and political behaviour, are the primary focuses of political science, which is a subfield of the social science known as political science. The act of reaching choices through consensus among a group of individuals is the essence of politics. Politics may be seen in all human group interactions, including those that take place in business, academic, and religious organisations, but the term is most commonly used to describe behaviours that occur inside civil governments. Political scientists investigate topics such as the distribution of power and its movement during decision-making, the functions and structures of governing bodies such as national governments and international organisations, political behaviour and public policy, and so on. Based on this quick examination, we are able to deduce that the aforementioned fields of study use an empirical approach to the investigation of certain elements of human beings. In order to investigate the topic at hand, they make use of scientific techniques such as observation and experimentation. In contrast to these related academic fields, which likewise focus on the investigation of human beings, the Philosophy of the Human Person investigates the human being in his or her whole by posing questions that are unique to the human being in question and looking for solutions to those questions in the form of

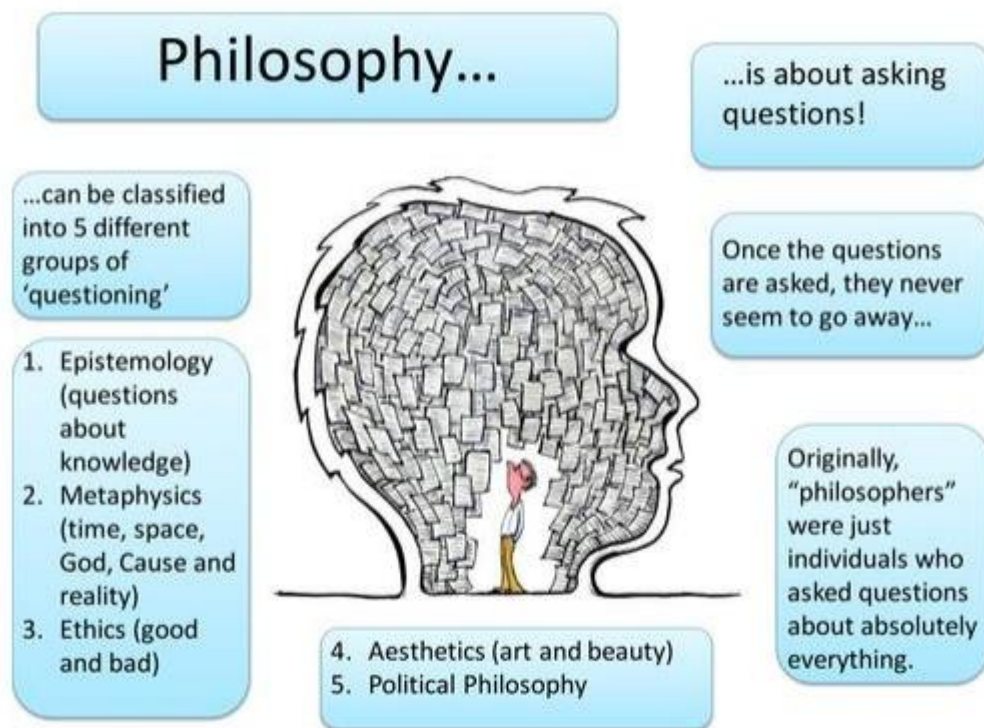


explanations that are exhaustive in nature. Although it is true that the Philosophy of the Human Person makes use of empirical methodologies, this branch of philosophy delves far further into metaphysical regions. It looks at the human person as more than just an object in nature's study. A human person is in point of fact more than just an object; he or she is also a subject, an ego, and an I. Therefore, the study of the human being in terms of what makes him or her normally a human being is what is referred to as Philosophy of the Human Person.

### **Defining Philosophy**

Philosophy is a branch of academic study that employs the use of reason and logic in an effort to comprehend reality and find answers to basic problems regarding knowledge, life, morality, and the nature of humans. (Anthony and K.I. Lawrence 2014) Philosophers are those who engage in the study of philosophy. Over the course of history, philosophers have endeavoured to find answers to topics like as,

- What is the meaning and purpose of life?
- How do we know what we know?
- Does God exist?
- What does it mean to possess consciousness?
- What is the value of morals?



(Source: <https://www.google.lk/significance of philosophy>)

Through the use of the philosophical process, philosophers endeavour to provide answers to such issues. In most cases, the approach starts when the philosopher examines his own views and starts to question the veracity of those ideas. From his hesitation, questions develop. Before providing a solution, a philosopher will carefully examine the question to be certain that it has been correctly and completely defined. This helps narrow down the possible answers to get the one that is the most specific. Following this, the philosopher will offer several potential solutions to the subject at hand and will present rational justifications to back up each solution. Following that, more philosophers, some of whom may offer rebuttals, remark on the arguments. Philosophers make an effort to demonstrate the soundness of their views by engaging in a process known as dialectic, which involves critiquing and evaluating arguments in an effort to uncover underlying truths. Questions of a philosophical character are typically of a fundamental and an abstract nature. Although the methods that are used to study philosophy may be equivalent to those that are used in the study of the empirical sciences, the primary way that philosophy is done is via contemplation, and it does not typically rely on experimentation.





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## **The Characteristics of Philosophy**

The point of studying this topic in its whole is to have a better understanding of the qualities that define philosophy, so that we may apply those qualities to analyse the dynamics of any change and assess whether or not it is beneficial to humans. As a result of the separation of philosophy from other fields of study, such as the natural sciences and mathematics, the subject matter of philosophy has become more narrowly focused, leaving her with only two primary characteristics: Philosophy is characterised first and foremost by its reliance on logical reasoning in order to investigate evidence. This is done in order to expose biases and assertions that have been advanced and to give each piece of evidence the appropriate amount of weight. This is due to the fact that the justification of evidence is carried out from a point of view that is dispassionate and neutral. Therefore, philosophising requires taking concerns and challenges in life with an open mind while maintaining a critical and analytical frame of mind. The second distinguishing feature of philosophical thought is the provisional status of any conclusion that could be made on a topic. In other words, there is no such thing as an absolute or certain conclusion in philosophy, at least not one that is immune to further and further research and correction. According to Gurforth, "there belong to the very nature of philosophy as an attitude of scepticism which regards no conclusion as final and every matter, however, apparently, closed is open to further future question" (Akinpelu 1981). In this context, "scepticism" refers to an attitude that regards no conclusion as final. In his definition of philosophy, Bertrand Russell makes the point that philosophy is defined by its appeal to human reasoning rather than to authority, whether that authority comes from revelations or from tradition. In conclusion, philosophy is a field of study that employs the method of logical thinking in order to validate issues and problems and assign them the significance that is due to them. Also, it is in agreement with the current sciences in stating that there is no absolute and definitive result that is immune to further inquiry and revisions in the future.

## **Effects of Philosophy on Individual Growth**

The evolution of man influences his connections to the natural world, to culture, and to the divine. Human progress is the result of a reciprocal, genuine, and responsible relationship between two people. However, progress may be anti-human if it fails to really align with nature, culture, and the sublime, and is instead stated in a careless manner. To build the human growth also known as authentic and responsible alterity, philosophy must show the true essence of any development. To be sure, philosophy's ability to shed light on difficulties is rooted in its two defining features: its emphasis on the application of pure reasoning and its steadfast belief that there is no definitive conclusion in philosophy immune to additional future research or



corrections. The second defining feature of philosophy is the recognition of axiological dynamism, or the dynamic nature of values. In light of this evidence, it is clear that existing conclusions and laws must be revised. Examples of justifiable growth in the 1960s include deforestation and road building, although these practises are now seen as counterproductive. Thus, the preservation of natural resources is essential and of genuine worth. Thus, when values change, so do the rules and conclusions that humans draw from them. The actuality of globalisation also exemplifies the philosophical traits that define it. How? Traditional understandings of globalisation concentrate on the unrestricted flow of commodities and services across national borders. The concept aspires to shrink the globe into a global community. It promotes the idea that time and location are relative and helps people learn about one other quickly through social interaction. Globalisation employs cutting-edge science and technology as a tool to achieve its goal. In order to eradicate universalism, ideological imperialism, and multiculturalism, the purpose of globalisation and the American way of life is to establish interculturalism.

## Conclusion

I think there are excellent reasons to think that philosophy is significant, even though many people are sceptical. It is not just the knowledge of logic that philosophers can teach us that will help us think more critically; it is the ability to think critically itself. People might gain insight into their own beliefs and be inspired to ponder the most fundamental issues of life by studying philosophy. Learning philosophy may help a guy become a well-rounded, cultured, and intelligent individual. His capacity to critically analyse, organise, and assess a vast body of information is greatly enhanced by this. Therefore, it is a crucial part of his overall growth that will allow him to live a life befitting of man's dignity as an individual and a social being.

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