

Philosophy

Concept, Nature, Scope

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Course Outcomes

After **going** through this course the learner will be able

- To define and categorize Philosophy,
- To identify the act of scientific misconduct
- To enlist ethics and misconduct related to publication
- To use the Journal indexing databases and identify the suitable journal for publication and publish manuscript ethically.

Learning Outcomes

After going through this lecture you will be able

- To define Philosophy
- To understand the concept and Nature of Philosophy
- To differentiate Philosophy with common sense
- To relate Philosophy with Science
- To classify philosophy in branches

Philosophy Terminology

- Greek Word
- Philia means Love (Strong desire for something)
- Sophia means Wisdom (Correct application of Knowledge)
- Philosophy means Love of wisdom

Definitions

- **Serious cultivation of the intellect and understanding.**
- **Inquiry into the deeper values of life.**
- Ex; nature of matter, time, space, causality, evolution, life, and mind, and their relation to one another.
- **Art of thinking logically, systematically, and persistently.**
- Philosophers are rarely content to accept the status quo at face value.
- **The study of ideas and beliefs about the meaning of life**

Philosophical Thinking

An attempt to achieve an intellectual endeavor to establish the reality of this entire universe

Wonder

Curiosity

Questioning

Contemplation

Reasons

Rational Thought

Intellectual Independence

Philosophy started when the first person posed a profound question, and it will always exist as long as others ask questions of this nature.

Relationship between Common Sense & Philosophy

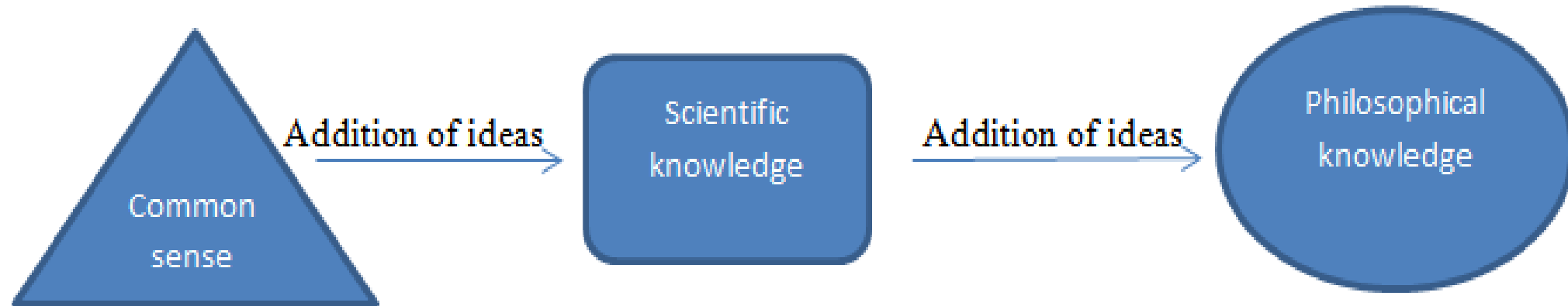


Figure 1 Relation between common sense and philosophy

Point of difference	Common sense	Philosophy
Definition	Common sense is the knowledge people achieve through common observation.	The knowledge which is achieved through logical analysis and it is achieved by experts and philosophers.
Purpose	There is no fixed purpose of gaining common knowledge and acquired through day to day experience.	The knowledge which is acquired through philosophical process bears a certain objectives.
Certainty and logical	General knowledge is uncertain, incoherent, unorganised and illogical.	Philosophical knowledge is certain, concrete, organised and logical.
Superstition	Common sense is sometimes biased to superstition and social culture.	In case of philosophical knowledge is completely impartial from superstition and social culture.
Basis of relationship	Philosophy is not at all considered as the basis of common sense.	Common sense can be considered as the basis of enhancement of philosophical knowledge.
Changeability	Common sense varies with the change of space, time and context. So, this knowledge is not eternal and permanent.	Philosophical knowledge cannot be changed with the change of space, time and context. So, it is permanent and eternal.
Scope	Common sense is generated only from the objective world.	Philosophical knowledge focuses not only on this external world but supernatural world also.

Relationship between Philosophy and Science

- Science is the systematic and well organized body of knowledge which is based upon observation, experiment and reason.
- Whereas, philosophy is also systematized body based upon critical analysis and interpretation. No experiment is used here.
- Eminent French philosopher **Auguste Comte** opined that **Philosophy is the science of sciences.**

Commonness between Philosophy and Science

- Both Science and Philosophy are engaged in the search of truth.
- Both are critical in nature.
- Philosophy integrates sciences and examines scientific assumptions.
- Scientific research influences philosophical progress.
- Philosophy guides the future course of scientific process.
- Philosophy provides a constructive criticism of sciences.

Difference between Philosophy and Science

- Philosophy and Science have different scope and problems.
- The attitudes of philosophy and science are different.
- Science and Philosophy differ in their methods.
- Philosophical Conclusions are different from these of sciences.
- Philosophy and science are engaged in different activities.

Outlook of Philosophy

- 1. Beyond space and time:** Its nature is to present and establish the reality not limited to geographical space and time.
- 2. Collective development:** the objective of philosophy is to all round development of humanity.
- 3. Searching the reality of life:** wants to search the real existence in this world and to acquire the ultimate appropriateness of life.
- 4. Guide to salvation:** Indomitable efforts, perseverance, sacrifice of life enhance the human journey towards the salvation.

Nature of Philosophy

- Philosophical concepts are both relevant and significant.
- Philosophy helps everyone find the truth.
- Philosophy might be conservative, conventional, or flexible in character.
- Philosophy explores the nature of reality.
- Philosophy is the discovery of new meanings by abandoning the traditional path of knowledge.
- Philosophy is constantly evolving.
- Philosophy offers an alternative approach to behaviour management.
- The link between ATMA and PARAMATMA can only be achieved with the process philosophy.
- Philosophy is concerned with the understanding of reality.
- It focuses on the conceptualization process.

Scope / Area of Work

- Philosophy is a very broad field of study where many issues are posed and rational, methodical solutions are sought.
- It is a manifestation of the profound curiosity of the human intellect, which is restless and full of questions until an acceptable response is found.
- While there are other ways to satiate one's curiosity, such as science, philosophy is the oldest and most traditional.
- It has the advantage of coexisting alongside civilization and human culture.

Branches of Philosophy

1. Metaphysics

2. Epistemology

3. Axiology

- Ethics
- Aesthetics
- Logic

Metaphysics

- The word is coined by editors of Aristotelian work on Nature (Physics).
- The word "meta" in Greek meant "after/ beyond/ upon" and physika means nature, meaning '**beyond Nature**'
- **Metaphysics deals with the deeper problems, those based on ultimate nature of reality/ existence.**

Examples of Problems addressed by Metaphysics

- How do mind and body relate?
- Am I the same person now as I was when a child?
- Is there any life after death?
- What is reality?
- Does God exist?
- What is time?
- Do mind and soul exist?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Who are we? What is our purpose?

Epistemology

- It is the study of knowledge itself and how people come to know the world around them. **Source of Knowledge**
- In other words, it asks, "**How do we know what we know?**"
- A significant academic field, epistemology has links to quantum physics, cognitive science, historiography, and philosophy, among other areas.
- The word coined by James Ferrier, the Greek term "logos" means "argument," or "reason," and "episteme" can be rendered as "knowledge," "understanding," or "acquaintance".
- **Study of Knowledge**

- Two major categories in epistemology are **Rationalism and Empiricism**.
- **Reason** is emphasized as the primary component of knowledge in rationality.
- The primary source of knowledge, according to rationalist thinkers, is the intellect.
- It also says that prior to any experiences we may have with our bodily senses, we are born with concepts.
- **Empiricism** states that our five senses are the source of all knowledge.
- John Locke famously observed that knowledge is acquired via experiences; it is a blank slate in our minds from birth.

Axiology

- Axiology is a virtue-oriented philosophy that helps us understand that thoughts and behaviours have the potential to create good or negative outcomes.
- The hierarchy of values, for instance, posits that life is the fundamental value, upheld by things and deeds that allow it to exist.

Examples

- You have to choose between taking a high-paying career that you detest and a low-paying job that you like. Which option you select—money or happiness—will represent your ideals.
- You give careful thought to what your buddy would want when choosing a birthday present for them. This indicates that you respect friendship and thoughtfulness.

Axiology/ value theory :

- The study of value;
- The investigation of its nature, criteria, and metaphysical status.
- Some significant questions in axiology include the following:
 - **Nature of value:** is value a fulfilment of desire, a pleasure, a preference, a behavioural disposition, or simply a human interest of some kind?
 - **Criteria of value:** “there's no accounting for tastes” or do objective standards apply?
 - **Status of value:** how are values related to (scientific) facts? What ultimate worth, if any, do human values have?

Axiology/ value theory :

Axiology is usually divided into three branches

- Ethics
- Aesthetics
- Logic

Ethics or Moral Philosophy

- is concerned with human values and how individuals should act.
- Ethics is the study of moral values- right, wrong, just, unjust etc.
- It imparts values to personal actions, decisions, relations.
- People continuously face more than one alternative courses of action and are often choosing among them.
- Any consideration that you will bring to bear on your choices will have what is commonly called the ‘moral’ implication.
- Ethics is the study of human conduct based on moral impulses and wisdom.
- In modern times, some of the important ethical issues in which people are engaged include abortion, sexual morality, death penalty, euthanasia, pornography and environment.

Aesthetics

- Aesthetics is a branch of philosophy that deals with the nature of beauty and taste, **as well as the philosophy of art.**
- It examines subjective and emotional values, judgments of sentiment and taste.
- Aesthetics covers both natural and artificial sources of aesthetic experience and judgment.
- It considers what happens in our minds when we engage with aesthetic objects or environments such as viewing visual art, listening to music, reading poetry, experiencing a play, or exploring nature.
- **The philosophy of art specifically studies how artists imagine, create, and perform works of art, as well as how people use, enjoy, and criticize art.**
- Aesthetics considers why people like some works of art and not others, as well as how art can affect moods or even our beliefs.
- Both aesthetics and **the philosophy of art ask questions** like "What is art?," "What is a work of art?," and "What makes good art?"

4. Logic

- Logic studies the rules of valid reasoning and argumentation, and it enables us to examine our reasoning to ensure that it is consistent with premises and axioms and thereby reach valid conclusions.
- Logic is the systematic study of valid rules of inference,
- i.e. the relations that lead to the acceptance of one proposition (the conclusion) on the basis of a set of other propositions (premises).
- Logic is the analysis and appraisal of arguments. its scope includes classification and analysis of arguments, deductive and inductive inferences, examination of paradoxes , study of syntax, semantics , mathematical formulations of axioms and theorems , and concepts of meaning , denotation and search for truth.
- When our thoughts are organized in the format of logical systems , we usually check for consistency, compactness , validity, proofs for validation and completeness.

Syllogism

- Aristotle devised a particular type of deductive argument called the **syllogism**, which is defined in terms of a certain structure.
- Aristotle *syllogism* consists of three successive assertions; the first two are the premises, and the third is the conclusion.
 - Premise 1: Every river contains water.
 - Premise 2: The Nile is a river.
 - Conclusion: Therefore, the Nile contains water

References

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