Foundations of Education
Paper – 05

Meaning and Definitions of Educational Philosophy

Introduction:

Philosophy is the systematic inquiry about the ultimate realities in the universe. It is a study of general principles and understanding of all that comes in the range of human experience. Etymologically, however the term Philosophy is derived from the two Greek words "Philos" and "Sophia". "Philos" means "love of" and "Sophia" means "Wisdom". Therefore the word Philosophy means "love of wisdom". Plato said, "He who has a taste for every sort of knowledge and who is curious to learn and never satisfied may be termed as a Philosopher". In the word of Alfred Weber, "Philosophy is a search of comprehensive view of nature, an attempt at a universal explanation of the nature of things. In Indian thought, Philosophy means "darshan", it implies to to see reality face to face. A person sees the nature of reality personally. Philosophy can be said to be a process of seeing or realizing the natural phenomena or experiencing it.

Meaning of Educational Philosophy:

Educational Philosophy is an applied branch of Philosophy. It is the application of the norms and principles of Philosophy in the field of education. According to Bertrand Russel, "Educational Philosophy is a new branch of knowledge which discuss education from Philosophical view point.". Educational Philosophy is an important branch of applied Philosophy that utilizes philosophical methods for the solution of educational problems through philosophical method to activate philosophical conclusion and result. The areas of Educational Philosophy is very wide and it covers a large range of intellectual field. Educational Philosophy provides more particular frame of reference to the educational process.

Definitions:

The meaning of Educational Philosophy has been defined differently by different eminent educationalist and philosophers. Some of them are listed below:

1. Henderson: "Philosophy is a search for a comprehensive view of nature, an attempt at a universal explanation of nature of things."
2. Bertrand Russel: "Philosophy like all other studies, aims primarily at knowledge."
3. V.R Taneja: "Philosophy being a mother discipline, all Arts and Sciences look to it for the solution of their problems."
4. Herbert Spencer: "Philosophy is concerned with everything as a universal science."
5. Radhakrishnan: "It is a natural inquiry into the nature of reality."

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