

Epistemology and its Application in the World of Education

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ABSTRACT: The development of education in Indonesia continues to face various challenges, including the quality of teachers, curriculum, budget, and education regulations. This research aims to analyze the role of epistemology in improving the quality of education through the application of the philosophy of knowledge in the learning process. This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature review method to explore the concept of epistemology and its application in education. The main findings indicate that idealism, realism, pragmatism, and existentialism epistemologies can be integrated into learning to enhance educational effectiveness. Each philosophical school contributes to the development of critical thinking, creativity, and learner autonomy. This research concludes that the comprehensive application of epistemology can strengthen teaching methods and produce more independent and critical individuals, ultimately improving the quality of education in Indonesia.

KEYWORD : Epistemology, Education, Independent Curriculum, Students.

INTRODUCTION

The development of the world of education today is so massive, starting from the development of innovation, the development of learning, the development of the curriculum, to the development of infrastructure used in the world of education. This development must be supported by several factors, namely, (1) Teacher Quality, (2) Learning Curriculum, (3) Education Budget, and (4) Education Regulations (Kelana, 2019). These four factors are an absolute thing that must be improved first to develop the world of education. But unfortunately, Indonesian education has not been able to focus on improving these four factors. Indonesian education still overrides the development of the world of education, which in fact in this aspect of education can improve the quality of Indonesian society.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conducts an educational assessment through the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 to measure the level of knowledge, skills, welfare, and equality in 15-year-old students. In the assessment, Indonesia ranked 68th out of 81 participating countries assessed on the program (Lubis, 2023). This ranking has risen 5 places since 2018 but has decreased. This is a clear proof that the development of the Indonesian education world has not been so much a major concern in the concept of nation building.

Nation development must be based on the development of the educational aspect. The educational aspect can carry out its role and duties well through an effective learning in it. This learning is carried out in a classroom that provides interaction between educators and students who then transfer knowledge to students as the main goal of the learning carried out. Good learning refers to (1) arousing curiosity, (2) arousing positive optimism in learners, (3) encouraging the development of learners' creativity, and (4) being able to be applied effectively (Steven Ronald Ahlaro, 2020). To obtain good learning, there are many things that need to be considered, one of which is the implementation of the current curriculum. The problems that occur still stem from how the development of educational aspects in Indonesia has not become the main aspect in nation building so that the improvements or changes made cannot be comprehensive. The problems that occur can be analyzed systematically, integrally, comprehensively, fundamentally, and objectively through the study and perspective of philosophy (Usmaulidar & Yanti F., 2024). The foundation that can be used for these problems is through ontological philosophy, epistemology, and axiology.

The foundation of this philosophy is a basis for analyzing problems or dynamics in the world of education today. Ontology explains what exists and its differences. Epistemology describes knowing or explaining about a situation or about something that exists. While the axiologicals explain the benefits of something that exists (Hifni, 2018). In the learning problems that occur, the epistemological aspect is an important aspect considering that learning is a place to transfer knowledge from educators to students and also in learning a place to answer everything about the world today. The application of epistemology must be something that educators know in order to carry out their role well. So that when the epistemology is known, it will spread to more effective learning.

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From the above points, the researcher finally gave an interest to how the definition, types, and application so that the researcher came up with the title "Epistemology and Its Application in the World of Education" in the hope that the philosophical foundation of epistemology can be known by education and make learning run effectively and can help analyze the problems of the world of education in Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

This article discusses the analysis of the usefulness or application of educational philosophy, namely epistemology which is explained in several types. The analysis method used is a qualitative method that focuses on the study of literature from several relevant sources. The theoretical references used through the study of this literature are the main foundation and foundation for field research practice.

The data collection in this analysis uses literature studies collected from several relevant and recent research results so that one red line can be found in this study. The type of data used is a type of secondary data, namely supporting data collected from existing literature or references. Not only that, the data collected is also based on documents or data that are considered necessary and important to complete the results of this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The problem of education in Indonesia is so complex. Not only in terms of learning but also starting from the problems that occur in education regulations to the human resources involved in it as well. The problems that occur from year to year have not been solved optimally, so special treatment is needed to solve the problems that are increasingly needed. These problems need to be analyzed comprehensively to be able to find the core of the problem and then it can be solved optimally.

Analyzing educational problems is carried out using the philosophical foundation of epistemology. According to Simon Blackburn in the (Pajriani et al., 2023) explaining epistemology comes from two words that come from Greece, namely, *episteme* (knowledge) and *logos* (words/science). The foundation of this philosophy is related to the origin, nature, essence, and type. The discussion of epistemology is often a discussion that has a long debate about what knowledge is, what are its characteristics, what are its types, and the relationship between truth and belief. This epistemological study will discuss the process of obtaining knowledge, things that should be considered in obtaining knowledge, and what is called truth (Pajriani et al., 2023).

The development of the foundation of epistemological philosophy has produced many views in philosophical schools in the world. This school has succeeded in developing the epistemology foundation into (1) idealistic epistemology, which focuses on the surrounding reality so that its application expects education to provide diverse learning spaces to students. (2) Realism epistemology, is a scientific process that is shown to various educational problems that are expected to be in accordance with the desired reality. (3) The epistemology of Pragmatism, argues that it cannot be said to be knowledge if there is no change in the surroundings. This theory believes that the application of project-based learning will bring further understanding to students. (4) Epistemology of existentialism, believes that students must make their own choices in life. Students must be free to express themselves (Syifa Devinta et al., n.d.).

This school of epistemology makes a hope for the improvement of education in Indonesia. The use of philosophical schools can trigger critical thinking on existing problems. This stream can be a comprehensive foundation to analyze problems and provide solutions to existing problems. These streams can not only be used one by one, but the use of each school of philosophy can be utilized according to the needs of analyzing each existing problem. The use of the school of epistemological philosophy can explore many questions that have the purpose of acquiring knowledge (Syaiful et al., n.d.). The Epistemology school is a form of solving problems that exist in the world of education. As a mandatory thing to do, this school is not only developed but also literally but also must be in the form of applying it or real implementation in the world of education itself.

As a branch of philosophy that studies the nature of knowledge, Epistemology has wide relevance in various disciplines and daily life. The application of epistemology allows us to understand how knowledge is formed, validated, and used in different contexts (Sari et al., 2020). Through epistemological analysis, we can explore the methods used to acquire knowledge, the limitations encountered in the process, Thus, the application of epistemology is not only limited to the academic field, but also plays an important role in the formation of individual and group worldviews, especially in answering current challenges. In addition, Epistemology also serves as a tool to explore various truths of knowledge needed in the teaching and learning process.

This analysis process relies on the foundation already mentioned above for its application process. Starting from the epistemology of idealism which is widely seconded in basic education. The foundation of this philosophy emphasizes that reality is shaped by ideas and thoughts carried out by humans, so that the educational process is directed to develop it in the form of critical thinking processes, creative souls, and understanding abstract concepts such as morality and spirituality. This makes an educator as a facilitator to encourage students to understand the values of life and moral reflection through teaching that will not only focus on cognitive aspects, but also spiritual values (Sari et al., 2024).

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In the school of epistemology, realism is basically more applied to social sciences or to law and justice. The implementation of this stream is used for social research with a focus on extreme realities that will later be understood and measured objectively. Likewise in the field of law and justice, how will this stream help justice and facts be interpreted objectively (Rokhmah, 2021).

The epistemological school of pragmatism in (Rosyid, 2010) highlighting that this school emphasizes reality as something that is directly experienced by humans. This school applies to education through the understanding that a student is an independent individual and able to solve real problems in his or her life. This context is applied in the independent curriculum where learning is not only theoretical, but also practical and integrated with a real experience outside the classroom. Pragmatism can also be integrated in a learning stage which emphasizes learning that is in accordance with reality and based on experience. Pragmatism also emphasizes learning that has practical application methods so that the experience obtained by students will be more real (Brutu & Annur, 2023).

In the application of the last school, namely epistemology, existentialism. This school emphasizes the freedom of students, students cannot be intervened in their choice of the chosen learning resources in the future (Syifa Devinta et al., 2017). Morris in (Rohmah, 2019) emphasizing how the school of existentialism must make students aware that they are free and creative individuals in choosing. Students are also required to be aware of their responsibility in determining the path of life that they will then live and be able to create definitions through their perspective of thought. In other words, how this school explains the freedom that must be possessed by a student in living the life they live (education), including socializing, socializing, and their personality.

Indirectly, this epistemological school has become the basis of human relations in the world of education. The streams in it have been contained in the independent curriculum which is currently the main means of developing Indonesian education. This curriculum applies how this curriculum requires students to be creative and able to think critically, then be able to understand the social reality that occurs so that they are able to assess objectively. This cannot be done when students are not directly involved in public relations and are directly involved in the field so that they are able to collect the information needed. On the other hand, these activities are not limited to just one source of information, but students are given the freedom to choose the methods, methods, and things they want to explore the information so that the direct learning experience through this independent curriculum is more pronounced.

CONCLUSION

Epistemology, as a branch of philosophy that studies knowledge, is an important foundation in the world of education. Epistemology in the world of education shows that the application of epistemological concepts has an important role in increasing the effectiveness of learning. By understanding how knowledge is acquired, validated, and applied, educators can design teaching methods that are more systematic and relevant to learners' needs. Epistemology also helps educators understand the difference between right and wrong knowledge, as well as how best to convey that knowledge to learners through deductive, inductive, or research-based methods.

In addition, the integration of epistemological values in the educational curriculum is crucial to help students think critically and analytically about the information they receive. Thus, epistemology not only plays a role in the academic world, but also helps students develop critical thinking skills necessary in daily life. The biggest challenge in the application of epistemology is the misalignment between educational theory and practice, but with a deeper understanding, education in Indonesia can further develop and produce more critical and independent individuals

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