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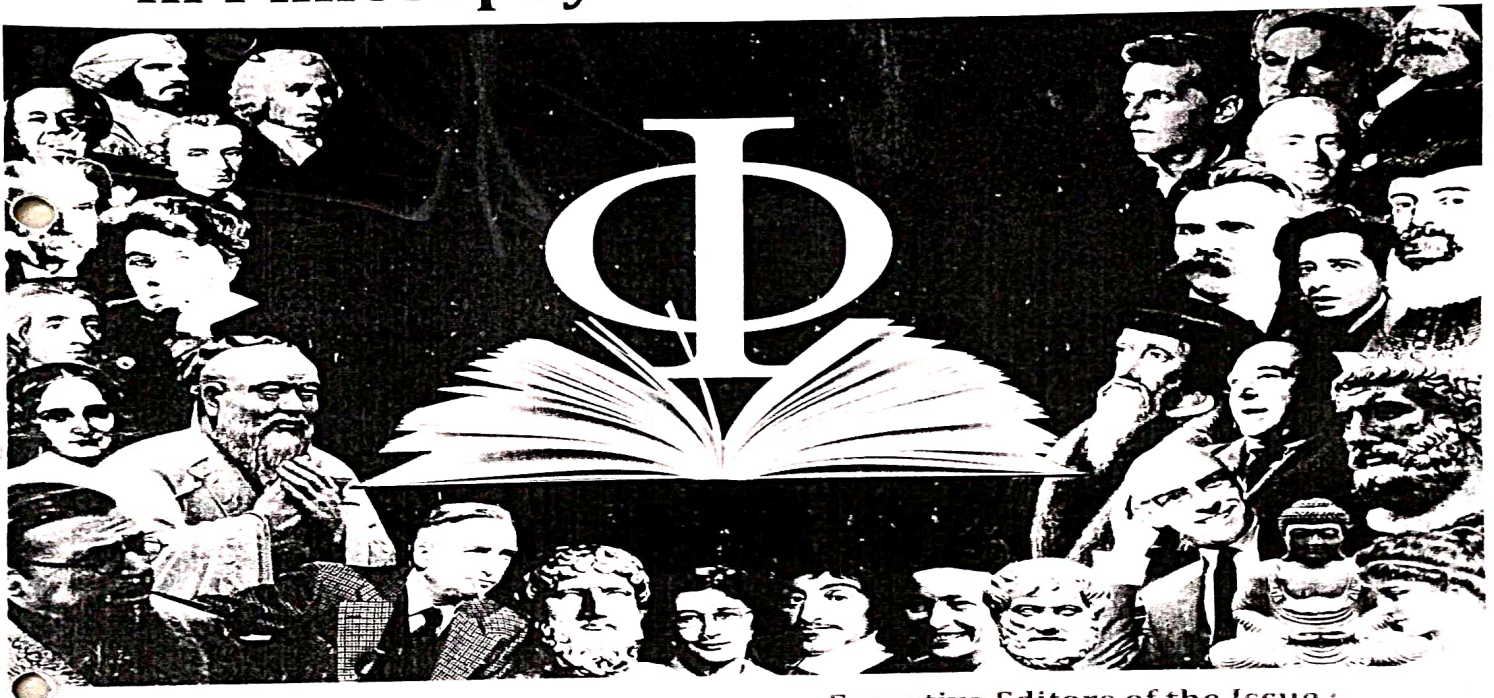
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Guest Editor :

Dr. Sudhir D. Ingale
I/C Principal
Mudhoji College, Phaltan,
Dist. Satara (MS) India.

Executive Editors of the Issue :

Dr. Navnath Raskar
Dr. Sunildatt Gavare

Chief Editor :

Dr. Dhanraj T. Dhangar
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PROBLEMS OF EXTENSION OF PHILOSOPHY

Asst. Prof. Rajani A. Kale

HOD Philosophy Department

Mahatma Jyotiba Fule

Mahavidyalaya, Amravati

Mob. No. 9373677288

Email : rajanikale1974@gmail.com

Preface

To define a concept is to fix its bounds or limits to determine with precision, to describe accurately or to fix the meaning of it. Thus definition is an explanation of the exact meaning of the concept. The most universal concepts of human thought, in its urge for more and more classification, always stands in need of defining them. The philosopher has to constantly reflect on these concepts till they are matured enough to interpret the penalty corresponding to them, with the almost appreciation besides logical analysis, such a reflection is based on meaning of a concept which in its turn, is related to experience to which it corresponds. Thus, in the ultimate analysis, to define any concept the philosopher must proceed with double process of logical analysis of the concept and critical reflection and the experience for which critical reflection on the experience for which it stands. The philosopher in his synoptic vision could only find out the broad and general characteristic of a particular concept obviously, a definition of philosophy would not define this or that philosophy but philosophy in general.

Introduction to Philosophy

We are proceeding with a two fold process a logical analysis of the concept and a critical survey of historical treatment of the subject. As a general rule, the history of philosophy is a collection of the responded interpretation of the experiences of the individuals representing different aspects of Truth. Hence, what is desirable is not a destructive criticism of other approaches but the assessment of their value in the whole and to find in it a reasonable place for each of them.

Problem of Philosophy :

Different types of question give rise to the problems of different sciences. For example, if it is asked whether two and two makes four, it is a problem for mathematics. If it is asked that in which year Akbar the Great ruled India, it is to what different types of climate are found in India. It is a question for geography. Similarly, the political, economics and social problems fall within the scope of political science, economics and sociology, respectively. The philosopher is not concerned with these particular problems. But, does it mean that his problems are entirely of different sciences? No. In the different problems mentioned above, the questions of general nature will fall victim to the spoke of philosophy. For example questions like: What is space? What is time? What is beauty? What is right what is good? What is knowledge? are philosophical problems. Thus it is clear that philosophical problems are concerned with general question rather than with questions of particular nature.

Kinds of Philosophical problems

Philosophical problem are mainly of two types. On the one hand, there are problems of those studies which are known as philosophical sciences. These include epistemology, logic philosophy of science, metaphysics, Axiology, Aesthetics, philosophy of religion etc. On the other hand are the problems which fall within the field of philosophy as a universal science. Both these types of philosophical problems with no be discussed in sequence.

Problems Of Philosophical Sciences

As has been already pointed out, philosophical problems include problems of the sciences which are different from physical sciences in spite of bearing the name science. The main distinction between philosophical sciences and the physical sciences is that the former raise more fundamental and basic questions as compared to the latter. For example, Aesthetics is not so much concerned with the distinctions between beautiful and ugly objects as with the fundamental question about the nature of beauty and art. What is beauty? What is art? Does art lie in the artist or in his artistic expression? Similarly, other philosophical sciences raise fundamental problems in their own field. Broadly, the main problems of philosophical sciences are as follows :

Metaphysical Problems

Metaphysics is the sciences of existence of reality. Its main problems are: What is Reality? Is the world one or many? What are the fundamental characteristics of creation? What is space? What is time? What is matter? What is relation? What is cause and effect? What is the purpose of creation? Is the world progressing? Is there a god? Is change real or unreal? In brief, metaphysics discusses the three aspects of Reality the world, the self, and the God. Some thinkers fail to distinguish between metaphysics and philosophy. Metaphysics is a main branch of philosophy. Thus, philosophy includes many other branches covering widely different fields than metaphysics. When a student of philosophy studies the philosophical thought of any philosopher, he has to study not only his thoughts about metaphysical problems but also about the problems falling within the field of logic, ethics, religion and epistemology etc. However, it can be said that metaphysical problems constitute the central problems of philosophy.

Epistemological Problems

Epistemology is the science of knowledge and truth. Its problems are the fundamental problems of the process of knowledge. It is not strange that though so many thinkers are busy in the acquisition of knowledge, not many think over the general questions concerning the nature of knowledge, its limits and the relation of knower with known? These questions are raised in epistemology. Therefore, epistemology provides the basic foundation of knowledge. For example, an epistemological problem is concerning the question whether one knows the object outside him or only the content of his mind. Epistemology critically examines different methods to achieve different types of knowledge. Philosophers have discussed such problems since time immemorial and conclusions of philosophers like Immanuel Kant of Germany have proved to be epoch-making.

Logical Problems

Logic is the science of methods of thought and the implication of judgment. It studies the structure of thought, its laws and fallacies. What is thought? What is its relation with Nature? How does mind solve a problem? What are the natural methods of thinking? What is definition, hypothesis, division, explanation? All these are the problems falling within the scope of logic. Thus, like epistemology, logic also provides fundamental basis is the science of correct or valid thinking.

Philosophy Of Science

As has been already pointed out, philosophy is intimately connected with sciences and discusses their problems of general nature. For example, all the sciences believe in the postulate of causality. The philosophy of science critically discusses the concept of causality and finds out its truth and imitations. The philosophy of science also critically examines different scientific methods used in different sciences and finds out conditions in which they are valid. The philosophy of science is mainly concerned with developing a worldview based on the conclusions of different sciences. Hence, in the modern times, the problems of the philosophy of science are considered to be very important. Even the philosophers who do not admit any value of philosophy in modern times, valuable.

Axiological Problems

Philosophy is very much concerned with value. Axiology is the science of value. It discusses value from the philosophical point of view. Its main problems are what is value? What are the fundamental values? What is good? What is beauty? What is art etc. Without discussing these fundamental problems regarding values, we cannot solve many problems concerning values in our every day life. While the philosophy of science discusses facts, the discussion of values falls within the scope of axiology.

Problems Of Aesthetics

Aesthetics is the philosophical study of beauty. Art creates beauty. Hence, the nature of art is an aesthetic problem. This, in its turn, raises many questions such as : Does art lie in the artist or in his creation of art? Is there beauty in music, drama, picture, statue, dance, woman or is it in our mind? What are basic characteristics of art? What are the criteria of judging beauty and art? All these are problems falling within the field of aesthetics.

Ethical Problems

Ethics is the science of good, the right and wrong. Its main problems are : What is right? What is wrong? What is good? What is conscience? What is responsibility? What are rights and duties and what is their interrelation? What is justice and how it can be attained? Thus, ethics discusses the ultimate good and explains rights and duties in its light.

Problems Of Religion

Philosophy of religion, as is clear by the title, raises philosophical problems in the field of religion. For example, Is there a common element in different religions? What

are the fundamental elements of religion? What is the relation of religion with ethics? How far is religion based on Reality? What is God? Is God one or many?

Problems Of Social Sciences

While philosophy of science discusses problems of physical sciences different branches of philosophy have been developed for discussing different problems of social science. The important among these social sciences are education, sociology, economics, political science, history etc. Philosophy discusses the philosophical questions arising in the set social sciences. This has given rise to different special branches of philosophy e.g. philosophy of education, social philosophy, economic philosophy, political philosophy, of history, etc. These philosophical disciplines based on social sciences arise general and fundamental disciplines problems in their field. For example, philosophy of education raises the fundamental question about the aim of education. Political philosophy discusses the nature of state and government, their rights and duties and their limitations. Social philosophy discusses the philosophical questions in the social relationship. Economic philosophy raises question of fundamental importance in the fields of production, consumption and exchange. Philosophy of history examines the nature of historical and cultural processes and finds to their places in the total cosmic process. Besides problems of the special branches of philosophy, there are some other philosophical problems concerning matter of social importance, for example, the philosophical basis of marriage, family, physical development and even of dress.

Value of philosophy

Philosophy influence both the personal and social aspects of human life. Most of the Western philosophy have considered the goal of philosophy to be the achievement of knowledge, but the aim of philosophy is not merely intellectual. It is true that philosophy gives us knowledge, where as philosophy influences personal life, it influences social life as well. Our determined by our philosophers. If a man considers others as ends in themselves, his behavior will be different from that of those persons who consider others as more instruments to achieve their own selfish ends. Every man has divine element in him, this is a philosophical attitude. Everybody is a thief, this is a different philosophical attitude. It can be easily understood that these different philosophical attitude will lead to different types of behavior towards others. In fact, it will not be an exaggeration to say that at the root of the behavior of different persons, there are some philosophical difficulties.

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