The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

William James

Learning Outcomes

- Ability to address philosophical questions related to medical practice.
- Ability to think critically.
- Awareness of the implicit worldview (Paradigm).
- Improving interpersonal relation and self-development.
- Therapeutic role of Philosophy

Part-1

Introduction:
The best method of teaching philosophy is through practicing it. Philosophy is mode of being before being mode of knowing, exactly like our usage of language, we follow the syntax and grammar before being named and discovered.

What is philosophy?

1. The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, esp. when considered as an academic discipline.
2. A set of views and theories of a particular philosopher concerning such study or an aspect of it.

- The word "philosophy" comes from the Ancient Greek (philosophia), which literally means "love of wisdom".
- The introduction of the terms "philosopher" and "philosophy" has been ascribed to the Greek thinker Pythagoras.
- A "philosopher" was understood as a word which contrasted with "sophist".
- Traveling sophists or "wise men" were important in Classical Greece, often earning money as teachers, whereas philosophers are "lovers of wisdom" and were therefore not in it primarily for the money.

The main areas of study in philosophy today include metaphysics, Ontology, epistemology, logic, Mind, ethics, Politics, religion and aesthetics.
**Metaphysics**

- Metaphysics is the study of the most general features of Being, such as existence, time, the relationship between mind/soul and body, wholes and their parts, causation.
- Traditional branches of metaphysics include cosmology, the study of the world in its entirety, and ontology, the study of being.
- Within metaphysics itself there are a wide range of differing philosophical theories.
- Idealism vs. Realism, for example, is the belief that reality is mentally constructed or otherwise immaterial while realism holds that reality, or at least some part of it, exists independently of the mind.
- Reductionism vs. Holism.

The word ‘metaphysics’ is derived from a collective title of the fourteen books by Aristotle that we currently think of as making up “Aristotle’s Metaphysics.” Aristotle himself did not know the word. (He had four names for the branch of philosophy that is the subject-matter of Metaphysics: ‘first philosophy’, ‘first science’, ‘wisdom’, and ‘theology’.)

**Ontology**

- (from onto-, from the Greek “being; that which is”, logia: "science, study, theory")
- is the philosophical study of the nature of being as well as the basic categories of being and their relations.
- Ontology deals with questions concerning what entities exist or can be said to exist, and how such entities can be grouped, related within a hierarchy, and subdivided according to similarities and differences.
Examples of ontological questions include:

- What is **existence**, i.e. what does it mean for a being to be?
- What features are the **essential**, as opposed to merely accidental attributes of a given object?
- What is a **physical object**?
- Can one give an account of what it means to say that a physical object exists?
- Can one give an account of what it means to say that a non-physical entity exists?
- What constitutes the **identity** of an object?
- Do beings exist other than in the modes of objectivity and subjectivity, i.e. is the subject/object split of modern philosophy inevitable?

Essential ontological **dichotomies** include:

- **Universals** and **particulars** ///Rule based……Case based
- **Substance** and **accident**
- **Abstract** and **concrete** objects
- **Essence** and **existence**
- **Determinism** and **indeterminism**

**Particulars** are those objects that are said to exist in space and time, as opposed to abstract objects, such as numbers.

**Universals** are properties held by multiple particulars, such as redness or a gender. The type of existence, if any, of universals and abstract objects is an issue of serious debate within metaphysical philosophy.

**Realism** is the philosophical position that universals do in fact exist, while nominalism is the negation, or denial of universals, abstract objects, or both.

**Conceptualism** holds that universals exist, but only within the mind's perception.

**Essence** is the set of attributes that make an object what it fundamentally is and without which it loses its identity. Essence is contrasted with accident: a property that the substance has contingently, without which the substance can still retain its identity

**Epistemology**

Epistemology is the study of knowledge and justified belief.

- As the study of knowledge, epistemology is concerned with the following questions:
  - What are the necessary and sufficient conditions of knowledge?
  - What are its sources?
  - What is its structure, and what are its limits?
  - What makes justified beliefs justified?
• Skepticism is the position which questions the possibility of completely justifying any truth.
• Rationalism is the emphasis on reasoning as a source of knowledge. Modern rationalism begins with Descartes.
• Empiricism is the emphasis on observational evidence via sensory experience over other evidence as the source of knowledge.
• I think, therefore I am (often given in his original Latin: Cogito ergo sum). From this principle, Descartes went on to construct a complete system of knowledge (which involves proving the existence of God, using, among other means, a version of the ontological argument).

Logic

• Logic is the study of the principles of correct reasoning.
• Arguments use either deductive reasoning or inductive reasoning.
• Deductive reasoning is when, given certain statements (called premises), other statements (called conclusions) are unavoidably implied.
• An argument is termed valid if its conclusion does indeed follow from its premises, whether the premises are true or not.
• while an argument is sound if its conclusion follows from premises that are true.
• Inductive reasoning makes conclusions or generalizations based on probabilistic reasoning. For example, if “90% of humans are right-handed” and “Joe is human” then “Joe is probably right-handed”.

Ethics, or "moral philosophy,"

- Is concerned primarily with the question of the best way to live.
- The main branches of ethics are meta-ethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics.
- **Meta-ethics concerns** the nature of ethical thought, such as the origins of the words good and bad.
- **Normative ethics** are more concerned with the questions of how one ought to act, and what the right course of action is. This is where most ethical theories are generated.
- **Lastly, applied ethics** go beyond theory and step into real world ethical practice, such as questions of whether or not abortion is correct.
- Ethics is also associated with the idea of morality, and the two are often interchangeable.
- **Consequentialism** (actions are to be morally evaluated solely by their consequences)
- **Deontology** (actions are to be morally evaluated solely by consideration of agents' duties, the rights of those whom the action concerns, or both).

**Immanuel Kant** argued that moral principles were simply products of reason. Kant believed that the incorporation of consequences into moral deliberation was a deep mistake, since it denies the necessity of practical maxims in governing the working of the will. According to Kant, reason requires that we conform our actions to the categorical imperative, which is an absolute duty.
Aesthetics

- Is a branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of art, beauty, and taste, with the creation and appreciation of beauty.
- It is more scientifically defined as the study of sensory or sensori-emotional values, sometimes called judgments of sentiment and taste.
- More broadly, scholars in the field define aesthetics as "critical reflection on art, culture and nature."
- More specific aesthetic theory, often with practical implications, relating to a particular branch of the arts is divided into areas of aesthetics such as art theory, literary theory, film theory and music theory.

Part -2
Philosophy of Medicine

Now we can discuss how philosophy relate to Medicine?
Philosophy as Therapy?
Phenomenological foundation of Medicine.
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