

The Significance and Relevance of Plato's Philosophy of Education in the Contemporary View on the Aims of Education

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the author seeks to be critical in understanding the role of education in the formation of a society in which an individual can pursue a decent and happy life through training individuals who are both politically and morally upright. It shall challenge the contemporary pre-dominant view on the aims of education as a mere tool in creating technically trained individuals who can participate in the competitive markets. Plato's philosophy of education in his later work *the laws* concretely discussed the significance of education in the society. According to him, a true education must always put forward the formation of the "wholeness" of man, or else it is not an education but a mere training without virtue. Today, the role of this kind of education that Plato offered has been set aside to the extent of producing the demands of the rapidly changing industrialized world. Martha Nussbaum as well as Rabindranath Tagore and Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar saw this role of education in the society as a problem that needs to be re-evaluated and hopefully change. Like Plato, these contemporary philosophers did not disregard the importance of the society's economic growth. However, the problem lies with how the society creates individuals and on how it sees itself a society of people.