SOCIOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION (SPFE) NOTES BY ODERA AMOS OUMA

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1.0 Overview of Philosophical foundations of Education

1.1 Meaning of Terms

1. Philosophy

Philosophy is a branch of study that investigates the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, existence, and values. It seeks to understand the world and our place in it by examining abstract concepts such as truth, reason, morality, and consciousness. Philosophy asks fundamental questions about the meaning of life, the nature of the universe, and the human condition, and attempts to provide rational and systematic answers. It is a field that has been studied for thousands of years, and its various branches and sub-disciplines continue to shape our understanding of the world and ourselves.

It is an ancient discipline that seeks to understand the world and our place in it through critical thinking, analysis, and reasoning. Philosophy can be divided into many branches, such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and aesthetics, each of which explores different aspects of the human experience and our understanding of the world around us. It aims to uncover deep truths about the nature of existence and to provide a framework for understanding the complex issues that confront us in our daily lives.

2. Philosophical Foundations of Education

The term "Philosophical Foundations of Education" refers to the study of the underlying principles, concepts, and ideas that shape educational systems and practices. It involves the examination of various philosophical perspectives, theories, and ideologies that have influenced the development of educational policies and practices throughout history.

Philosophical Foundations of Education is an interdisciplinary field that draws on various branches of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and social philosophy, among others. It explores fundamental questions about the nature of education, such as the purpose of education, the role of the teacher and the learner, the nature of knowledge, and the relationship between education and society.

Some of the key philosophical perspectives that have influenced educational theory and practice include: Idealism, Pragmatism, Existentialism, Marxism, Feminism

1.2 Philosophical foundations of Education

1.2.1 Meaning of Philosophy of Education

The term "philosophy of education" refers to the branch of philosophy that deals with the nature, purpose, and meaning of education. It seeks to examine the underlying principles and values that guide educational practices and policies, and to develop a coherent and systematic understanding of education as a human enterprise. Philosophy of education is a branch of philosophy that explores the nature, purpose, and goals of education, as well as the methods and principles of teaching and learning. It is concerned with questions such as what education is for, what knowledge is valuable, what the role of the teacher and the student should be, what the relationship between education and society is, and how education can promote human flourishing.

Philosophy of education is concerned with questions such as: What is the purpose of education? What knowledge and skills should be taught? What is the role of the teacher in the learning process? What is the relationship between education and society? What are the ethical and moral dimensions of education?