

Human as Perfect Being: Philosophical Basis of Education

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Received: June 21, 2022

Accepted: August 15, 2022

Published: October 28, 2022

To cite this article:

Agus Suradika (agus.suradika@umj.ac.id), Fitria Rosmi (fitria.rosmi@umj.ac.id), Taufik Yudi Mulyanto (taufikyudi.mulyanto@umj.ac.id). Human as Perfect Being: Philosophical Basis of Education. *The Social Perspective Journal*, 2022, Vol. 2, No.1, pp. 66-76. DOI: 10.53947/tspj.v2i1.408

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Abstract *The purpose of this writing is to present a philosophical basis for education, especially regarding the position of humans as perfect beings. Human perfection is at least due to seven things, namely as a creature (a) thinks, (b) produces, (c) speaks, (d) has a society, (e) has an economy, (f) has religion or belief, and (g) has culture or art. Its perfection gives rise to curiosity and fosters empathy and sympathy for something. With these abilities, humans are the only creatures that can be educated, trained, and developed. Through education, training, and competence development, humans can continue to develop science, technology, and art. The development of science, technology, and art is carried out through scientific and natural ways of thinking. Progress in the fields of science, technology, and art is a manifestation of the existence of the position of humans as perfect beings.*

Keywords: Humans, perfect creatures, thinking, and science and technology progress.

1. Introduction

Education can be defined as a conscious effort made by humans or a group of humans to prepare students through guidance, learning, and training activities for their future needs. The abilities developed in the educational process include the cognitive, affective, and psycho-motor domains. Education is a prerequisite for the progress of a nation's civilization. Thus, there is a linear symmetrical relationship between the progress of education and the progress of a nation's civilization.

Therefore, education has a strategic position in building the nation's civilization. As a science, education has a solid foundation. One of the foundations is the philosophical foundation. The philosophical foundation of education is a set of assumptions from the philosophy used as a starting point in education. Therefore, there is an implication relationship between ideas in general philosophy and educational ideas. The implication relationship contains ideas or concepts that are normative or perspective. It is said to be normative or perspective because the philosophical basis of education does not contain concepts about education as it is but contains educational concepts that should or are someone's aspirations. In the philosophical foundation of education, there are also various schools of thought. This appears as an implication of the schools contained in philosophy. So that in the philosophical foundation of education, it is also known that there is a philosophical foundation for idealism, realism, and pragmatism education (Tatang, 2012). This article will present the philosophical foundation of education, especially regarding the position of humans as perfect creatures of Allah SWT.

2. Results

2.1. Understand Humans

The word human, in language, is often also replaced with human. The word human comes from Arabic, namely *Nasiya*, which means forgetting, or from the basic word, *al-uns*, which means tame. The word human refers to humans because humans have a forgetful and docile nature. With these two properties, humans can continuously adapt to new circumstances around them. Surah Al-A'la verse two explains that God has created man from a clot of blood. Besides that, in Surah Al-Insan (Qur'an 76: 2), God has created man from a drop of mixed semen, which God wants to assess with orders and prohibitions. Therefore, God made man to hear and see. The essence of the two verses is that God has given humans a sense of sight and hearing so that humans conduct the commands of their Lord. With the sense of sight and hearing, humans can adapt to the surrounding environment.

This adaptability is what distinguishes humans from other creatures. The behavior of creatures other than humans has not changed throughout the ages. While human behavior constantly changes from time to time by the times. Monkeys will never be found using cell phones (mobile phones) to communicate. From time to time, since ancient times until now, monkeys communicate with their language, which has also not changed. Not so with humans. The reality shows that the use of tools used by humans in long-distance communication continues to change, starting from the use of telephones operated by an operator, dial telephones, digital

telephones, and now cordless telephones. Even cordless phones have functions and application menus that change and develop from time to time.

Throughout the history of world civilization, humans have been the owners of works resulting from creative thinking so that they are different from other creatures. The works created by humans make them a creature who creates history. Great creatures that influenced history, from the Prophet Muhammad to Niels Bohr, can be seen from the search conducted by Michael H. Hart in his famous book "The 100, a Ranking of the Most Influential Person in History" (Hart Publishing Company, New York: 1978).

In the book, the Prophet Muhammad is positioned as the most influential human being for two reasons. First, Muhammad has a more vital role in the development of Islam than the Prophet Jesus in Christianity. Although Jesus is fully responsible for the moral teachings and the Christian faith, the distribution is mainly conducted by St Paul, the main character who spreads Christian theology. Second, Muhammad was not only a religious leader but a world leader. The facts show that the influence of the political leadership of the Prophet Muhammad SAW has always been at the forefront.

Next, Niels Bohr, who was born in 1885 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and died in 1962, by Hart, is positioned at the last number one hundred because of his thoughts on atomic structure. Although Bohr's original theory of atomic structure was over fifty years ago, he is still one of the significant figures of the 20th century. For several reasons. First, some of the essential points of his theory are still held to be true. For example, his idea that atoms could exist only at precise energy levels was an integral part of all subsequent theories of atomic structure.

On the other hand, Bohr's description of the atom has the significance of discovering something for oneself, although modern scientists do not consider it valid. Most important were Bohr's ideas, which were the driving force for developing "quantum theory." Although some of his ideas were outdated, <http://media.isnet.org/kmi/iptek/100/Bohr.html>, accessed on August 26, 2021).

In the revised edition written in 1992 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Niels Bohr's name disappeared from the 100th position due to the inclusion of other figures who were more influential than Bohr (<https://neohistoria.net/review-buku-100-the-most-influential-figure-in-history/>, accessed August 26, 2021). From Michael H Hart's search, the uniqueness and complexity of understanding human life are dynamic and constantly changing.

The complexity in understanding human life is related to the two types of reality that exist in humans, namely (a) phenomenon and (b) noumena. Immanuel Kant, professor of logic and mathematics (1724–1804), as stated by Salim (2001: 1), is a



philosopher who put forward these two types of reality. The phenomenon is a world humans experience with the five senses and is open to scientific research because it is rational. On the other hand, the noumenal world cannot be approached with empirical experience because it is not a physical or empirical thing. Based on these two types of reality, humans can be seen from various perspectives. Some say that humans are symbolic animals because humans communicate language through the use and interpretation of the symbols used in communication. At the same time, others believe that humans are rational animals because humans are thinking creatures.

2.2. Humans as Thinking Creatures: Its advantages over other creatures

Humans are the perfect creatures created by God. The location of human perfection compared to other created beings lies in his mind. Intellect produces the completeness of its abilities, including the ability to think, act, and feel. These abilities can continually adapt to the existence of space and time. Humans also have three consciousnesses: the brain, soul, and spirit. The brain is the conscious center of the physical body. The other two centers of consciousness, the soul and spirit, have no physical form and are less commonly known. The soul and spirit are the center of consciousness possessed by every human being.

In everyday life, humans learn everything using their brains. Starting from remembering, digesting information, deciding based on the knowledge possessed by humans themselves, and considering the pros and cons/pros and cons of choice faced for progress and the goals humans want to achieve. In addition, humans have a soul, which is something related to the part of a person. After the soul, humans have a spirit which means that one's true self is in the heart. This spirit is commonly known as the "essence" or "splash" of the Creator. The human heart is commonly referred to as "the key to the relationship with God Almighty." Humans need to use the heart to communicate appropriately with His Lord.

Unlike other creatures created by God, animals do not have a mind. For example, animals can act but do not have the ability to think and feel. This situation causes animal behavior to remain the same even though it is in a different space and time. Humans' essential thinking ability is distinguishing between space and time or both. This ability to distinguish time allows humans to connect phenomena in the past with what they are facing now and connect phenomena in the present with events that they may face in the future. The long journey of human life in space and time-past, present, and future will form a continuum to position humans as beings who have always been, are, and will learn endlessly throughout their life (long life learning). In the whole journey of life, the three abilities mentioned above: thinking, acting, and feeling, are always in a state of change.

Apart from being perfect beings, humans are also unique creatures. Humans have a "mystery" nature. If animals, plants, and nature are classified as phenomenal worlds, then jinn, angels, and spirits are the noumenal worlds, then humans have both worlds at once. As phenomena, humans are bound by nature's laws and are open to scientific investigation. Behind that, humans are also noumena because they have a soul that contains feelings, enthusiasm, care, desires, and others. At least as humans themselves have free will or free will. Furthermore, humans can be positioned as passive creatures because outside forces drive and shape them. At the same time, humans are also active creatures because they control, shape, and act freely.

God created man as a thinking creature. Thinking is using reason in doing and deciding what to do. This is also what is contained in the process of forming the human body, which places the head in the highest position compared to the heart. The head is where the brain resides, believed to be the originator of the human mind, while the heart is the revealer of human feelings. God provides the heart so that the human thought process is not the same as the machine or computer thinking process.

Although in Islam there is the concept of '*Sami'na wa atho'na*' (we hear and we do), this is only limited to certain teachings (*qath'i*) that cannot be changed at any time, very many, even more, dominant religions command their people to think about something before acting. Man is a thinking creature using which he exists. In the process of thinking, humans like to ask questions, and explore their odyssey, starting from themselves, then their environment, and even then, to other things concerning the origin or the end of everything they see. He asks why I am there. What am I here for? after I am gone, what happens?

All these questions have positioned humans as slightly different creatures from animals. According to Aristotle (384-322 BC), humans are intelligent animals who express opinions and speak based on their minds (the animal that reason). By placing humans as thinking, intellectual and cultured animals, it can be understood that humans could explore their circumstances and environment. It is the man who lets his mind wander and asks questions. Asking about himself, his surroundings, and even asking about God. The answers to these questions give birth to knowledge, technology, beliefs, and even religion.

The development of human thought in seeking the truth has undergone several stages of development. F Rummel (see Suradika, 2000: 10-12) classifies it into four stages of development, namely the period: (a) trial and error, (b) authority and tradition, (c) speculation and argumentation, and (d) hypothesis and experimentation.

In the fourth period -- hypothesis and experimentation -- assumptions based on the sharpness of mind (hypotheses) began to be used by scientists, after which the

facts began to be collected. From the facts, it is concluded whether the allegations are by the facts obtained. Facts are obtained from experimentation, historical documents, observations, and others. Usually, people use tools and symbols that are conducted systematically in searching for the data. In this period, there was a change in humans from being thinking creatures to being scientific humans.

Scientific man still needs to be discussed. The word scientific is still limited to creativity made to do something, whether in creation or scientific writing. What is made or written must be by events or reality, so it needs honest thinking. If a work is said to be scientific, but the data collected does not match reality, then the work is scientifically rejected. Therefore, scientific thinking is the process of thinking whenever and wherever in doing and acting according to reality. Human thinking ability will have a positive impact on scientific behavior and decisions.

Suria Sumantri (1995) calls human *homo sapiens*, beings who think. Every moment of his life, from birth until entering the grave, humans never stop thinking. Almost no problem related to life escapes the reach of his mind, from the most trivial to the most basic. Thinking is humans' main characteristic, distinguishing between humans and other creatures. So, with the basis of thinking, humans can change the state of nature as far as reason can think. Thinking is the process of working the mind; humans can think because humans have a reason. Intellect is one of the elements of the human psyche to achieve the truth in addition to feeling and the will to achieve goodness. Thus, the main characteristic of thinking is the existence of abstraction. So, in a broad sense, thinking is associated with abstractions. In a narrow sense, thinking is putting or looking for relationships or ties between abstractions.

3. Analysis

3.1. Humans as Perfect Creatures: Humans as Homo Sapiens

Homo sapiens is a creature that thinks, so it is an intelligent and wise creature. With the power of thought, humans can think about what should be done in the present or the future based on past considerations, which are experiences. Abstract thinking is one form of human culture, followed by other forms of culture in the form of actions or behavior or the ability to do an action. *Homo Sapiens*, a thinking creature, is the essence of being human. Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) represented that essence in a masterpiece of art, a statue of *Homo sapiens* as a symbol of humanity, as shown in Figure 1 because humans think that humans become humans, the most superior adventurous creatures.

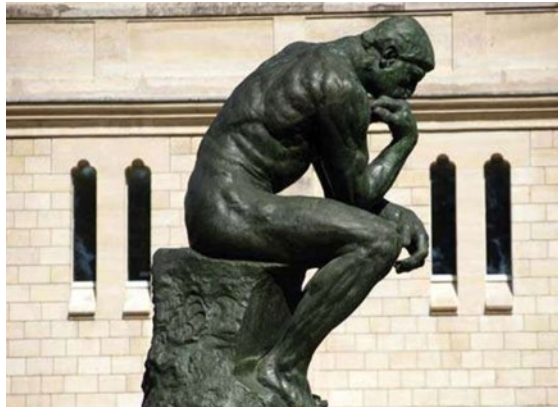


Figure 1 The thinker by Auguste Rodin

Positioning humans philosophically, or understanding the philosophy of a human being, indeed cannot be separated from human authenticity through thinking activities. Therefore, "thinking" has become a scientific force and cultural energy. It means that humans have not only an actual existence but also an autonomous real existence, meaning that humans exist and can realize their existence through various actions they practice in life. Rene Descartes stated it with the phrase "*Cogito ergo Sum*," I think, therefore I exist (Mallia-Milanes, 2015).

Understanding "humans as homo sapiens" will bring someone to the advantage of humans in terms of their ratio processing abilities, both sensory as well as through empirical and experimental experience. In processing the ratio, humans develop the skills and art of thinking (the art of think) and describe all the thinking processes through language. Therefore, language is a symbol that can constantly describe the depth of human thought. Language, therefore, becomes an instrument in translating "thoughts" so that abstractions of an object managed by ratio or thought can be understood factually. That means thought is the foundation of philosophy to fulfill one's curiosity because of that. With the framework of cogito, Rene Descartes, ergo sum "I think; therefore I exist," must then be brought up again as part of understanding human essence as homo sapiens (Gorgulu, 2015). This means that humans who think are human beings have the right to determine their existence. The actual existence of humans is the existence of humans as thinking beings.

Philosophers develop a philosophical analysis of human nature as homo sapiens by asserting it as a sign of human existence and strength and power (Madarasz & Santos, 2018). For philosophers, by thinking, humans cannot only understand nature's secrets but can master and deal with them. Based on the description above, it can be understood that as homo sapiens, humans not only have a higher intellect

and ratio than animals but also because they have a higher level of consciousness (Ekanem, 2013), which makes humans not only more creative and innovative in creating things but also developing language as a way of communicating which also gave birth to a new pure ratio.

Nevertheless, the perfection of human beings cannot be separated from criticism. One of the criticisms of philosophy at the end of the 20th century was precisely directed at the mismatch between the high ratio of humans and their poor animal behavior (Yong et al., 2020). Elias Canetti, one of the 20th-century thinkers, focused his work on power and death. His writings *Masse und Macht* (Crowd and Power) are often cited as the masterpieces of the 20th century. When the human ratio grew in an exceedingly high civilization in the 20th century, where modernism had developed to post-modernism, and humans had undergone a stage of evolution until they became "perfect humans" in the sense of having proven themselves to be "super-rational" creatures.", Canetti saw the tendency of animal behavior in humans.

This is where the homo sapiens dialectic lies. Thought is sometimes not used as a cultural force to build a strong human mentality; on the contrary, humans are trapped in the urge of instincts and intuitions that often destroy their actual existence or existence. It means to be human means to be who he is; therefore, as homo sapiens, humans must have their basic image by involving all their abilities and awareness of thinking (ability and consciousness of thinking).

3.2. Humans as Homo Faber

Homo Faber means that humans can make tools and use them or are referred to as working humans with one of their actions or cultural manifestations in the form of fabricated goods (artifacts). Humans create tools because they realize that their sensory abilities are limited, so they strive to make tools as auxiliary means to achieve goals. For example, binoculars and microscopes were invented because his eyes could not see outer space or small creatures. Due to limited physical strength, wheels were created as the main means of trains for transporting heavy goods.

3.3. Humans as Homo Linguens

Homo Linguens is that humans can speak so that what is thought in their brains can be conveyed through language to other humans. Language as an expression at the ordinary level is spoken language. Between ethnic groups and other ethnic groups, there are language differences. At the national level, the language differences will be further away. Higher differences are manifested in writing so that other nations or generations of nations can accept an idea if they know how to interpret it.

3.4. Humans as Homo Socius

Humans as homo socius mean that humans can live in society, not in groups like animals who only know the law of the jungle, namely the strong who rule. Human society is regulated by order for the common good. In human society, there is an act of mutual help. With this action, social goals can be achieved even though he is physically weak and with long reasoning ability.

3.5. Humans as Homo Economicus

Humans can conduct business based on economic calculations (homo economicus). One of the principles in the law of economics is that all activities must be profit and loss, profit if the input is more significant than the output, and loss vice versa. On a superficial level, humans fulfill their own needs; then, since services, a market system is developed to sell their products in the market. The wider the marketing of goods, the more profits are obtained. One of the efforts to increase work productivity can be conducted by using modern technology to increase human work productivity.

3.6. Humans as Homo Religious

This means that humans are aware of supernatural powers that have more excellent abilities than human abilities, thus making humans believe or have religion. In the early stage, animism, dynamism, and totemism were born, now categorized as beliefs, sometimes called natural religions. Then was born a belief called a divine religion that believes in God Almighty, believes in His Prophet, and his holy book is used as a guide.

3.7. Humans as Homo Humanus And Homo Aestheticus

This means that humans are cultured, while homo aesthetics means humans who know beauty. From so many differences, it becomes increasingly clear that humans have unique characteristics far from animals, let alone plants. So that humans cannot be equated with animals or plants. In humans, curiosity is not idle because the human mind develops from time to time; its curiosity or knowledge is constantly increasing, resulting in the accumulation of knowledge. So, his knowledge is not idle, in such a way that the development of the human mind occurs so that his thinking power plays a more significant role than his physical. In this sense, humans fulfill their life goals and preserve life to fulfill life satisfaction and achieve goals. Humans always want to know in terms of what exists (know what), how things happen (know-how), and why (know why) things. People are not satisfied when what they want to know is not

answered. Human curiosity is not limited to the state of the man himself or his surroundings but all things that exist in this mortal world, even unseen things.

3.8. Humans Think Rationally

Humans' reason is to accept something since the truth of the mind or ratio. This understanding comes from the human mind, which is processed in the brain. Humans can connect what they already know and what they are facing by reasoning. The human ability to use the power of reason is called intelligence, so there are humans with low, average, and high intelligence. In the development of human history, there is an impression that, at first, human feelings played a more significant role in their lives, resulting in belief, religion, and social feelings. With the increasing number of problems that must be faced, humans are increasingly using their minds and are less concerned with feelings. In Surah Al-A'la verses 4-5, it is explained that God teaches humans with a pen and teaches them what they do not know. Humans aware of these two things will use their minds to reason while complying with applicable norms.

3.9. Two Ways of Thinking

Thinking can be divided into two, namely: thinking (a) natural and (b) scientific. Natural thinking uses reasoning patterns based on daily habits from the influence of the natural surroundings (say: reasoning about the fire that can burn). Furthermore, scientific thinking is a pattern of reasoning based on specific targets regularly and carefully. Scientific thinking is the foundation or framework of scientific research thinking. To conduct scientific activities properly, a means of thinking is needed. The availability of these facilities enables regular and careful scientific studies to be conducted. Proficiency in this means of scientific thinking is imperative thing for a scientist. By mastering this, suitable scientific activities can be conducted.

4. Conclusion

Based on the discussion that has been stated in the previous section, it can be concluded as follows: a). As perfect beings, humans have several advantages over other creatures. These advantages include the availability of the mind to think and the heart to feel. The ability to reason breeds curiosity about something, then the heart's ability gives birth to empathy and sympathy for something. With these two abilities, humans are the only creatures that can be educated, trained, and developed. b). Through education, training, and the development of human competence, we can continue to roll science, technology, and art in a more advanced and sustainable direction. The development of science, technology, and art is conducted through

scientific and natural ways of thinking. c). Progress in science, technology, and art, is a manifestation of the existence of the position of humans as perfect beings, namely as thinking creatures, producing creatures, trading creatures, political creatures, speaking creatures, religious creatures, and social creatures.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The author declares that it has no competing interests.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

The researcher obtained Ethical Approval from the University before this research (UMJ - Rector No. 028/DPP-91-2021).

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