

Must There Be a Fundamental Aim of Education?

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Abstract

Across the history of philosophy of education, there have been attempts to provide an answer to the question *what is the fundamental aim of education*. Such a question is considered a substantive question. But nowhere in the literature has the notion of *fundamental aim of education* (FAE hereinafter) been problematized. Thinkers have always assumed that FAE is necessary. This paper problematizes this assumption by raising and answering this meta-question: *Must there be a fundamental aim of education?* It is so done by utilizing some conclusions from the field of epistemology, and using them as a model in arguing that there must be a FAE. The methodology used here is *philosophical justification*. This paper also defuses an objection to FAE as raised by philosopher of education R.S. Peters. Lastly, if the necessity of the FAE is clear to the teacher, then the teacher will be more intentional in her practices, more guided in her pedagogy, and more inclined toward justifications in her selection among educational options. All of these would lead to the teacher being more reflective in all instances of her practices. And such would have great benefits to the students.

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