

## DETAILS OF LECTURE NOTES

Name of the Teacher : **Dr. Yatendra Singh**

Name of the Subject : **Research Methods**

Class / Semester : **M.P.Ed. - I Semester**

Unit : **II**

# Philosophical Research



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“**Excellence** is not a gift,  
but a **skill** that takes practice.

We do not act ‘**rightly**’  
because we are ‘**excellent**’,  
in fact we achieve ‘**excellence**’  
by acting ‘**rightly**.’”

Plato

# Philosophical Research

**“Developing Philosophy and Applying them to Practice”**

**“Philosophy is the study of processes that govern thought and conduct of the Principles of Laws that regulate the Universe and underlie all knowledge and reality”**

*for example:*

## Development of a Leadership Philosophy



At the heart of it, research is about one thing, and one thing only: *expanding humanities knowledge*. Often times, in 'hard-science' fields, research is often application-based and can produce tangible results, as a byproduct of the research itself. In philosophy however, research can be hazy. At first sight, there are no inventions. No innovations, no insights. However, to cure this style of thinking, one must think about what 'philosophy' is. It is not silently standing under a fresh stream of warm water in ones shower, while wondering about what beauty truly means (though that is a fun pastime). Rather, philosophy represents an *extremely* large system of beliefs: whether they pertain to politics, morals, ethics, life, the universe, and everything. To research in philosophy in to expand humanities collective knowledge concerning a **belief**.

# Philosophical Research

Yet, a belief is a tricky thing. A huge amount of beliefs cannot be exactly proven in any sense of the word, so research in philosophy seems kind of impossible. And to define research as needed to be *proven* facts, it is indeed impossible to do research in such a nebulous field. However, within philosophy, the idea of doing research can be conveyed with the following sentence: One individual builds off/proves/argues the insights from one individual (who got his insights from building off/proving/arguing the insights from another individual) to produce a new insight.

# Philosophical Research

And sometimes, that really convoluted and seemingly useless methodology can produce some really cool things! John Rawls's famous "*A Theory of Justice*" made some fascinating postulations and ideas, such Justice as Fairness, Veil of Ignorance, and Reflective Equilibrium. Even this exemplary addition to philosophy and political thought was simply a response to the problems facing distributive justice! That's all it was, a response. And from Rawls's "*The Theory of Justice*" even came a slew of fascinating literature responding to it, such as Nozick's "*Anarchy, State, and Utopia*" and Walzer's "*Spheres of Justice*".

And that's about it! **Research in philosophy is just about arguing against or defending previous arguments. Of course, with that line of reasoning, we can play the whole "chicken or egg" chronological paradox.**



# Philosophical Research

[Research Paper.pdf](#)

## What is Philosophical Research then?

A **research philosophy** is a belief about the way in which data about a phenomenon should be gathered, analysed and used. The term **Epistemology** (*what is known to be true*) as opposed to **doxology** (*what is believed to be true*) encompasses the various **philosophies of research approach.**

# Different methods of Philosophy

## **Cartesian Doubt System:**

The system of Cartesian Doubt is based on four rules:

- Never accept anything except clear and distinct ideas.
- Order your thoughts from the simple to the complex.
- Divide each problem into as many parts as needed to solve it.
- Always check thoroughly for oversights.

# Different methods of Philosophy

## Socratic Method



**Inquisitor**  
Asks Questions

Hypothesis 1  
Hypothesis 2  
Hypothesis 3  
Hypothesis 4  
**Hypothesis 5**  
...

### Elenchus

- Consider the hypothesis.
- Think critically.
- Identify Weaknesses.
- Pose the next question.
- Revise the hypothesis

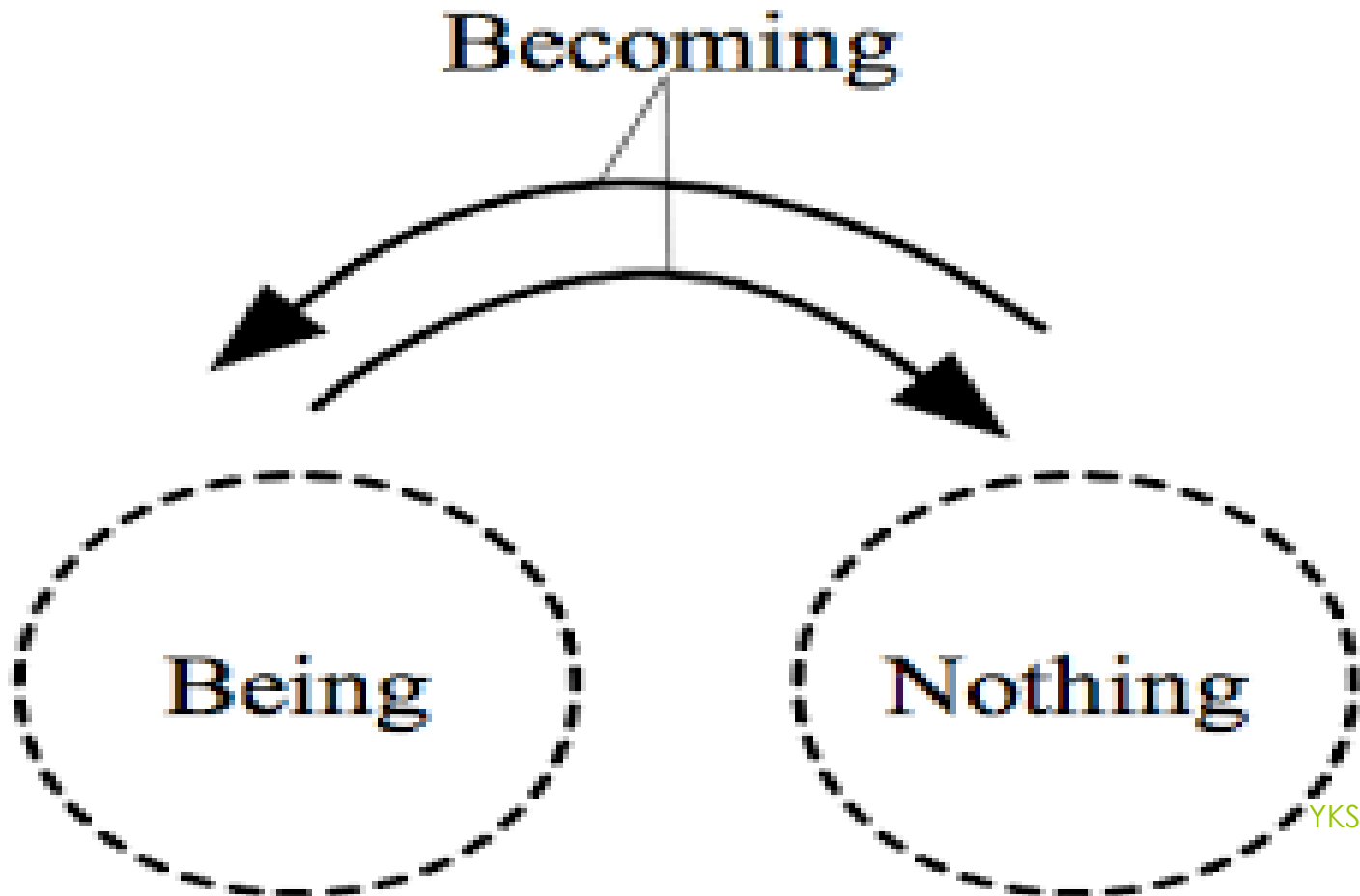


**Interlocutor**  
Answers Questions  
Revises hypothesis

A session continues until a satisfactory hypothesis emerges.

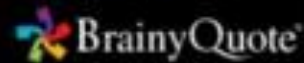
# Different methods of Philosophy

## Dialectic Method



**Research is to see what  
everybody else has seen, and to  
think what nobody else has  
thought.**

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi



*thank you*