

Exploring optimal education system: Insights from Ancient Greek philosophy

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Abstract

Purpose: The overriding prominence of any education system invigorates learners to become more independent, curious, open-minded, and think freely. Over the centuries education philosophy has evolved throughout the world. Various concepts, models and ideologies have been developed and tested. These educational principles have shaped educators, education, society and more importantly teaching and learning methods. The current study is to illustrate the optimal education system, drawing from the philosophies of ancient Greeks. The study addresses the research question: How can ancient Greek philosophies be utilised to create the best education system in modern world?

Methodology: The research was conducted using systematic literature reviews. The sources that are published in English are identified using scholarly academic journals. By comprehending the historical value of some old literature, this research also makes use of it.

Findings: The optimal education system would nurture an individual's passion for learning and emphasise the significance of individual moral development and wellbeing of the community. Ancient Greeks viewed philosophy as a means to better the individual and the community. Additionally, the ideal education system would highlight the significance of character formation and ethics. Some of the principles of Ancient Greek philosophy underpins one of the best educational systems in the world in relation to character building and create a better and fair society. An example of this is the Socratic Method. The Socratic Method is a method of instruction based on asking questions.

Conclusion: The ancient Greeks believed that education should be based on philosophical principles and the purpose of education to help children become good people. The findings conclude that the current education system could incorporate some of the core values from ancient Greek education philosophy to better fulfil its purpose to provide improved moral education to the learners.

Study originality: The study contributes to the body of knowledge by incorporating some of the key principles of Greek Education system especially, the Socratic Method and character education into modern education practices. This approach offers a road map for moral development of learners and the wellbeing of the community. The originality of this study lies in this approach which provides a unique perspective for assessing and restructuring current educational system.

Keywords

Ancient Greek education system, Socratic method, optimal education system, Platonic method, Stoicism, character building

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Introduction

The superior quality of any educational system lies into its ability to inspire learners to become more independent, curious, open-minded, and capable of thinking freely. Educational Institutions should seek to create and maintain a community of learners qualified for the programme's rigorous academic, professional, and civic demands and rich in experience and diversity. Educators and Institutions should ensure that the learning environment is conducive to independent thought and where learners are actively encouraged to question, formulate ideas and express themselves confidently. We should not forget that the ultimate goal of education is to shape the character of learners. The ancient world has much to teach us about creating the best education system. Ancient philosophies, such as those of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, have been studied and discussed for centuries. Their ideas are still relevant today and can be helpful in developing an effective approach to education. Among all ancient civilizations, the Greek civilization stands far above the rest (Sahibzada et al, 2015). The reason for the Greeks' intellectual dominance is their relatively more viable and stronger education system when compared to its counterpart or any nearby civilization.

The ancient philosophy of Socrates is used to create a model for the best education system. The model that is created is based on the idea that the best education system is one that is tailored to the individual. This means that the education system should not be based on a one-size-fits-all approach but should consider the unique needs and abilities of each student. The ancient Greeks were among the first to develop a comprehensive system of education. This system was based on the philosophy that each student has unique needs and abilities that must be considered. The ancient Greeks also believed that education should be accessible to all, regardless of social status. Socrates asserts that there are two distinct types of knowledge. The first is common knowledge. This contains extremely specific (and common) information (Brickhouse and Smith, 2000). He asserts that possessing such knowledge confers no expertise or discernment that is noteworthy. The second type of knowledge that Socrates asserts is "Philosophical Knowledge". This knowledge goes beyond the common understanding and involves deep contemplation of universal truths, ethical principles, and the nature of virtue.

In ancient Greece, education was considered a fundamental aspect of an individual's identity. The nature of one's education was heavily influenced by their social status and the cultural values of their city-state (Gvelesiani, 2013). Ancient Greek education was designed to produce knowledgeable and skilled citizens who could think for themselves and participate in the democratic process. Perhaps, the Greeks were the first, who inspired the way the education is seen today (Gvelesiani, 2013). The ancient Greeks believed that education was the key to creating a strong and successful society. Better academic performance was thought to be the fundamental driving force in gaining recognition, reputation, and prominence in political and social circles and military ventures (Plutarch, 1960). In the city-state of Athens, young children were educated at home or, on occasion, individually by a "pedagogue." Typically, moral instruction was provided at this age. Reading and writing were taught alongside drawing and counting to children. Poetry memorization was also prevalent (Mavrogenes, 1980). In addition, the general populace had access to education through the elementary level, but higher education was not accessible to all (Downey, 1957). In this system, students are given a well-rounded education that includes math, science, literature, and philosophy. The goal is to produce citizens who can think for themselves and make intelligent decisions for the good of the community. This education system, rooted in ancient Greek Philosophy, continues to influence modern approaches, with many people believing that it offers one of the most effective ways to educate students. Ancient Greece is known for its many contributions to Western civilization, including democracy, drama, and righteousness.

The ancient Greeks had a very good system for educating children (Gvelesiani, 2013). Their philosophy was that the purpose of education was to help people become virtuous citizens. They believed

that the best way to do this was to instruct children about the world around them and to help them develop their own reasoning skills. During education and training, civic and socio-cultural aspects were also considered. Music, dancing, and playing various musical instruments such as the lyre, harp, and flute were included in education in this context (Aristophanes, 2002). The Greeks also believed that education should be available to all citizens, regardless of their social status. This was a radical idea at the time. In most other cultures, only the wealthy could afford to send their children to school.

This study aims to demonstrate the optimal education system grounded in the philosophical principles of ancient Greeks. The study only examined the educational philosophy of prominent Greek thinkers, namely Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, and the Stoics.

Ancient Greek education: key aspects

The education system of today has come a long way since ancient times, but there are still many aspects that can be traced back to the ideas and philosophies of our ancestors. Ancient philosophy was an incredibly influential force in shaping the foundation of learning, teaching, and even the structure of modern educational institutions.

First, it is important to understand what ancient philosophy actually is. Ancient philosophy refers to any philosophical thought that was created during the period from 600 BCE until around 600 CE (David, 1998). This includes Greek-Roman classics such as Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, as well as Eastern philosophical traditions such as **Confucianism and Taoism**. While each culture had its own unique approaches to life and education, they all shared certain common threads that have been woven into today's educational systems. One key component of ancient philosophy is the idea of virtue ethics or "the good life" which stresses personal responsibility for ethical behaviour rather than relying on laws or external authority figures for guidance (Aristophanes, 2002). This concept has been embraced by many educators throughout history who believe that it is necessary for students to develop their moral compass in order to make responsible decisions in life. Additionally, this idea has been incorporated into curriculum design through lessons focused on ethical dilemmas and self-reflection activities which help students understand how their choices affect others and vice versa (Gvelesiani, 2013).

Another major element of ancient philosophical thought is the focus on **developing critical thinking skills** in order to assess information objectively before forming an opinion or deciding (Suhardiana, 2019). According to the author, Critical thinking is characterised by the ability to think accurately, methodically, and rationally when comprehending concepts or theories in order to act and solve problems using the process of conceptual analysis and reasoning. Teachers have been strongly encouraged to fully comprehend the importance of the concept of critical thinking, which is closely linked to Socratic inquiry (Paul, 2007). Socrates famously said "the unexamined life is not worth living" which highlights his commitment towards helping people examine their beliefs and challenge them, if necessary, in order to reach a better understanding of truth (Abdullah et al., 2022). This idea has also been adopted by modern educators who strive to teach students how to think critically about complex topics so they can form informed opinions instead of blindly accepting what they hear without questioning it first.

Finally, many aspects of ancient philosophical thought have been **intertwined with religious instruction (Abdullah et al., 2022)** over time since both often sought answers about life's toughest questions from similar sources such as scripture or spiritual texts like The Upanishads or The Bhagavad Gita. As a result, schools often incorporate religious instruction into their curriculums either directly through classes focused on different religions or indirectly through lessons about morality which include references from various belief systems. Although this approach may be viewed differently depending upon one's personal beliefs, it serves an important purpose by encouraging students to not only learn about different faiths but also gain insight into why those beliefs exist in the first place.

Education system in ancient Greek philosophers

One of the most influential figures in history when it comes to educational thought is Socrates. He believed that knowledge was acquired through questioning and dialogue between teachers and students Haris and Bećirović (2016). His famous “Socratic Method” was a way of teaching by asking questions rather than giving direct answers or lectures. This type of learning encourages critical thinking skills and helps students develop their own opinions instead of just accepting what they are told by their teacher (Patrick, 2011). By contrast, Plato argued that knowledge must come from within each individual student rather than from external sources like books or teachers; he called this the “theory of recollection” (anamnesis) (Haris and Bećirović, 2016). For Plato, knowledge was something innate that could be discovered through self-reflection and contemplation rather than memorizing facts or taking tests. He also believed that education should focus on cultivating virtue since it contributes both to individual happiness and society as a whole. Aristotle took a different approach than either Socrates or Plato when it came to educational theory; instead of focusing solely on knowledge acquisition, he emphasized the importance of practical experience as well as intellectual development (Mulphy, 2015). He argued that there should be a balance between theoretical study (such as mathematics) and more practical skills (like carpentry). According to Aristotle, both types of learning were necessary for leading a successful life since they combine reason with action in order to reach one's full potential as a human being (Watkins and Kritsonis, 2008).

These three philosophers offer valuable insights into how we might develop an effective educational system based on ancient philosophy today. By incorporating aspects from all three perspectives – Socratic dialogue, Platonic recollection, and Aristotelian practicality – educators can create an environment where students are encouraged to think independently while also gaining useful skills for living in our modern world. Such an approach would no doubt benefit both individuals and society alike.

The ancient Greek system of education consisted of three levels: primary, secondary, and higher education. Primary education was for children who were between the ages of 6 and 12. It consisted of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Secondary education was for students who were between the ages of 12 and 18. It consisted of grammar, rhetoric, logic, and arithmetic. Tertiary education was for students who were between the ages of 18 and 24. It consisted of the five liberal arts: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, and music. There was also a higher education for those who were between the ages of 24 and 30 that consisted of the seven liberal arts: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. In this system, the first two years were spent in the lower education, and the last four years were in the higher education. After the higher education, the young man was given a liberal arts degree. This degree was a sign that the young man was ready for the world.

The ancient Greeks believed that the best way to learn was to learn about everything (Watkins and Kritsonis, 2008). This philosophy is called the eclectic approach. The eclectic approach is still used in modern education. The modern education system draws inspiration from various sources, including from Ancient Greek philosophy and Medieval thought, which was deeply influenced by Christian theology. Ancient Greek philosophy itself was rooted in natural philosophy, which encompasses the study of the physical world, including Physics and mathematics, which includes Geometry. Geometry has also played a crucial role in fields like Astronomy. These disciplines, while interconnected have developed independently over time. Philosophical inquiry has always sought to understand truth, which many believe is reflected in the natural world. For those who hold a theological view, the nature is seen as a creation of God, who is considered the ultimate source of the universe. With this perspective, the universe can be seen as a vast and complex system for acquiring knowledge from, one that human beings continue to explore and learn from.

The ancient Greeks had a very different approach to education than what we have today. Their system was based on philosophy and character development. The goal was to produce well-rounded individuals who were able to think for themselves and make intelligent decisions. The ancient Greeks believed that a good education was the cornerstone of a strong democracy. It was their belief that an educated populace was essential to the stability and success of any society.

In the 4th century BC, Plato founded the Academy, the first institution of higher learning in the Western world. The Academy was based on the idea that knowledge is the key to happiness and that the best way to learn is through dialogue and questioning. In the centuries that followed, other great thinkers, such as Aristotle and Cicero, developed the idea of an education that aimed at developing the whole person, rather than just teaching them a trade or how to read and write. This ancient philosophy of education still has a great deal to offer us today. The ancient Greeks were some of the earliest philosophers to emphasize the importance of education. They believed that education should not be limited to teaching someone a trade or how to read and write but should also focus on developing the whole person. This philosophy is still relevant today and is the foundation of many of the best education systems in the world.

Education philosophy of key Greek Philosophers

Education: A platonic view

The ancient Greeks were some of the first people to develop a system of education that focused on citizenship and preparing young people for life in a democracy (Murphy, 2015). This system was based on the philosophy of Plato, who believed that all people were capable of learning and that education should be available to all. In a Platonic education system, students would learn about the government, history, mathematics, and philosophy. They would also be taught how to think critically and how to live a good life. A Platonic education would prepare students for a life of citizenship and philosophy. Education – culture and civic education – was regarded as an art to be mastered by each individual, according to the prevailing belief in ancient Athens

Plato believed that the best way to learn is through discussion and debate. He also believed that the purpose of education is to prepare students for a life of citizenship and philosophy (Murphy, 2015). In order to achieve this, Plato believed that students must be taught the fundamental principles of mathematics, music, and gymnastics. In the Republic, Plato outlines his ideal education system, which is based on the philosophy that the most important purpose of education is to cultivate the students' minds and character (Solomon, 2000). The system is designed to produce virtuous, intelligent citizens who are able to rule themselves and their city-state wisely. In order to achieve this goal, the curriculum is focused on the teachings of the great philosophers, such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. In addition, the students are also required to study mathematics, music, and poetry. The physical education program is also considered an important part of a well-rounded education. The ancient Greeks believed that the purpose of education was to develop the whole person. The best education system is based on the ancient philosophy of the Greeks (Myungjoon, 1994).

The education system of ancient philosophy has long been a source of fascination for many scholars and historians. From the Greeks to the Romans, from the Chinese to the Aztecs, many civilizations have had their own unique educational systems that have shaped their societies and cultures. One such primary source is Plato's *The Republic*, which outlines his views on education in detail. He argued that education should be based on four fundamental principles: gymnastics (physical development), music (intellectual development), literature (cultural development), and mathematics (moral development). By following this four-part curriculum, children would be prepared for adulthood with all the necessary

skills needed in society (Myungjoon, 1994). While Plato's views may not seem relevant today, his ideas still shape modern educational systems in subtle ways.

The ancient Greeks also believed in the importance of education. They believed that the purpose of education was to help students to become virtuous individuals.

Education according to Socrates

Education based on Socrates has been around since Ancient Greece, but his teachings remain relevant in modern education today. Socrates, a philosopher who lived in Athens from 470-399 BC, is widely considered one of the most influential figures in Western philosophy. He was known for his Socratic method of inquiry, which involves posing questions to discover truth and knowledge through dialogues with peers or students (Oyler and Frank, 2014). He argued that education should focus on developing critical thinking skills rather than memorizing facts or blindly accepting information and encouraged students to question beliefs and engage in thoughtful discourse. This teaching style has had a lasting impact on how we think about learning today. The Socratic Method is still used today in many forms of modern education, such as law school classrooms, business schools, medical schools, and even primary school classrooms. By encouraging students to ask questions, challenge assumptions, examine evidence, consider multiple perspectives, and engage in meaningful dialogue, they are able to develop critical thinking skills that will serve them well throughout life.

Socrates also emphasized the importance of self-knowledge for effective leadership development (Oyler and Frank, 2014). He believed that by knowing oneself better, one could become more aware of personal weaknesses, such as ignorance or prejudice, so that these areas can be improved for greater success. By understanding ourselves fully, we can create better relationships with others and make decisions more objectively without bias or outside influences clouding our judgement.

In addition to promoting critical thinking skills, Socrates also highlighted the importance of practice or "rehearsal" when it comes to learning new concepts or ideas effectively. This approach allows learners more opportunities for internalizing lessons learned, which gives them greater confidence when faced with similar situations in the future. Overall, it is clear why education based on Socrates remains popular even after thousands of years since its conception. His methods have proven themselves repeatedly across many different disciplines and contexts and will likely continue to grow in future generations. Thanks, Mr. Socrates!

Educational philosophy of Aristotle

The philosophy of Aristotle has been a guiding force in education for centuries. His teachings on the importance of knowledge and understanding are still relevant today and can be seen in many educational systems around the world. The most fundamental aspect of Aristotle's teachings is his belief that knowledge should be pursued for its own sake, not merely as an instrument to gain power or wealth (Watkins and Kritsonis, 2008). He argued that knowledge should lead to understanding, and that this understanding should then lead to wisdom and virtue. Aristotle believed that education was essential in order to develop virtuous citizens who could take part in society productively. He argued that all people have potential for greatness, but it is up to educators to guide them on their path towards this greatness by providing them with the necessary tools. Education should teach students how to think logically, critically analyze information, and ultimately come up with sound decisions based on reasoned arguments. This type of learning is aimed at helping individuals become better citizens by teaching them the skills they need to make informed decisions about their lives and contribute positively to society.

In addition, Aristotle's theories also suggest that an educational system must consider each student's unique characteristics such as age, gender, or socio-economic background when determining what kind of

education they receive (Watkins and Kritsonis, 2008). It is important for educators to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each individual student so they can tailor their instruction accordingly. Furthermore, it is important for teachers to create a safe environment where students feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of judgment or ridicule from other students or staff members.

Finally, Aristotle argued for lifelong learning, which means educating oneself throughout one's life through reading books, attending lectures or seminars, etc. Learning does not stop after school ends, but instead continues throughout our lives as we strive to continually improve ourselves through new experiences and knowledge acquired along the way.

Aristotle's philosophy on education has remained influential over time due to its focus on cultivating logical thinking skills while simultaneously encouraging personal growth through self-reflection and exploration beyond just memorizing facts from textbooks alone (Watkins and Kritsonis, 2008). By emphasizing both intellectual developments alongside moral character formation, it offers an approach which helps individuals grow into responsible citizens capable of making meaningful contributions within society as well as developing themselves personally over time. Ultimately, Aristotle's philosophy of education remains relevant today and can provide a useful framework for educators as they strive to create an educational system that is effective in helping students reach their full potential.

Another important source for studying ancient educational philosophies is Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. In this work, Aristotle examines different educational approaches used by various Greek philosophers at the time and evaluates them based on his own values and principles. He also explored concepts such as virtue ethics and developing *eudaimonia* (human flourishing). This text can provide insights into how ancient philosophers viewed education and its role in society as well as offer guidance for those looking to implement similar approaches today.

Education based on the philosophy of Stoicism

The Greek civilisation stands far above the rest of the ancient civilisations. This brief section aims to demonstrate the importance of incorporating the ancient Greek educational philosophy of "Stoicism" into the modern education system to offer learners a more effective and purposeful education. The core question is how the ancient philosophy of Stoicism can be used to create the best education system. The ancient Greeks believed that education should be accessible to all, regardless of social status. Socrates asserts that there are two distinct types of knowledge. The first is common knowledge. This contains precise (and standard) information. He argues that possessing such knowledge confers no noteworthy expertise or discernment. The second knowledge is essential as it is more expert based on philosophical thoughts. The ancient education system of Greece was designed to produce knowledgeable and skilled citizens who could think for themselves and participate in the democratic process. The ancient Greeks believed education was the key to creating a solid and prosperous society. Better academic performance was the fundamental driving force in gaining recognition, reputation, and prominence in political and social circles and military ventures.

In Athens, young children were educated individually at home or, on occasion, by a "pedagogue." Typically, moral instruction was provided at this age. Reading and writing were taught alongside drawing and counting to children. Poetry memorisation was also prevalent. In addition, the general populace had access to education through the elementary level, but higher education was not accessible to all. In this system, students are given a well-rounded education that includes math, science, literature, and philosophy. The aim is to produce citizens who can think for themselves and make intelligent decisions for the good of the community. This system is still in use today, and many believe it is the best way to educate students. Ancient Greece is known for its many contributions to Western civilisation, including democracy, drama, and righteousness.

We firmly believe that some aspects of the ancient Greek educational system can be adequately incorporated in the current education system to provide an appropriate model for educating students, and that is the character that still has global relevance in the 21st-century education system. One of such ancient Greek philosophy is 'Stoicism'. This approach is still used in modern education. We must acknowledge that the contemporary education system is based on old education system. The philosophy of Stoicism helped shape the education system worldwide for centuries. Cultivating wisdom and virtue through self-discipline and reflection were the critical components of the stoicism education system (Leitlande, 2021). The contemporary world is becoming more challenging due to several interconnected factors, including the pace of globalisation, unprecedented level of technological development, geopolitical shift, changing population movements and mindset of the people toward economic success. Therefore, the educational landscape is also changing rapidly.

There is a growing global interest in integrating Stoic concepts into education systems to promote resilience and adaptation. Wisdom, courage, justice, and temperance are the fundamental tenets of Stoicism, which are crucial for achieving personal success and happiness (Leitlande, 2021). These resources aided individuals in developing more resilience to confront the diverse challenges of living in an unpredictable and uncertain world. Stoicism also aids individuals in establishing harmonious relationships between themselves and the world, which is crucial for a prosperous life. Self-discipline is fundamental to the Stoic ideas, and students must handle challenging situations effectively (Burton M., 2014). In order to successfully implement an educational system rooted in Stoicism, educators must recognise the significance of offering positive reinforcement to students as they advance in acquiring these ideas over time. Teachers can excite their learners and encourage continued development by praising little victories, such as improvements in decision-making skills. Stoic philosophical principles offer a solid foundation for developing an efficient educational system that prioritises cultivating resilience in learners, irrespective of their age or background. By integrating its fundamental principles into academic programs and promoting self-discipline and conscious thinking in all school activities, educators can impart valuable life lessons and help students cultivate essential problem-solving skills necessary in various contexts, including the classroom and beyond.

The current form of education is purely based on academic and economic success. Grades are most important for the learners or even for their family members. People also take into consideration the opinions of others and decide their position in society. People are not paying attention to what they can control or their inner behavioural patterns, such as individual thoughts, behaviours, or actions. Stoic education is solely focused on internal development. However, it is also essential to understand that learning is a reciprocal process based on great camaraderie between teachers and students. If a learner does not see any value in teaching, it is tough for a teacher to provide adequate education to the student.

The education industry, notably the higher education sector worldwide, is facing several issues, and students are battling not only with educational and career options but also with one of life's most fundamental existential questions: who am I? What do I want? How should I live? Furthermore, the transition from high school to higher education is complex, and many students feel high levels of anxiety and stress, which harms their general well-being. In 2017, the American College Health Association conducted a study of college graduates and discovered that 20.5% felt very lonely, 60.9% had overwhelming anxiety, 21.6% lived with anxiety, and 17.8% were with depression. Many parts of the world have seen a significant increase in students' mental health difficulties over the last two decades, and counsellors at many institutions are overburdened with demand for their services. To deal with these numerous problems, students require an education and support system that will create a solid personal foundation. One such type of philosophical system is Stoicism. The philosophy is based on applied

philosophy that offers practical insights for dealing with the issues of everyday life, particularly those of contemporary society.

Martin Luther King Jr posited that the purpose of education is to "build intelligence plus character. For him, good education provides one not only the power of concentration but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate". The character-building process should start from primary school and then move to higher education and beyond. An essential aim of teaching is to develop learners' moral habits, soft skills and skills for life. We all are responsible for building a nation of character, from parents to policymakers. Parents should focus on building their child's character rather than academic performance and exam grades. As educators, we aspire to provide moral and value-oriented heuristic learning experiences to our learners. As an educational institution, we must provide a curriculum that is based on character education. The government should focus on the education policy that promotes character-building education. We all strive to move forward to prioritise character-building activities to ensure our youths succeed in achieving the true aim of education.

There is currently no one-size-fits-all answer to the question of what the finest educational system is. However, the ancient philosophy of Stoicism may offer some beneficial advice. The Stoics thought that education should be adapted to the requirements and skills of each student, allowing them to live a happy and fulfilling life. This method is still applicable today, and it is one of the reasons that the Stoic approach to education has been so practical. The Stoics thought the curriculum should be flexible and adaptable, emphasising the student's character and moral development rather than academic disciplines. The Stoics also felt that ancient philosophy provided the best foundation for schooling. Stoic education aims to help learners to improve their moral character. One of the primary advantages of a philosophy-based educational system is that it educates people to think for themselves. Rather than simply memorising information, students in a philosophy-based system are encouraged to question, analyse, and reflect on what they have learned. This style of studying assists pupils in developing their thought processes and becoming independent thinkers. In addition, the Stoic method encourages pupils to be lifelong learners. We hope that our educators and policymakers will integrate some of the innovative concepts derived from ancient wisdom into our contemporary education system, in order to cultivate a society comprised of ethically upright individuals. National prosperity will be achieved as a direct consequence.

Methodology

The research was conducted using a qualitative research method with the aid of systematic literature reviews. The educational philosophy of ancient Greeks is identified and applied to contemporary concepts of education in developing learner's moral character. The sources that are published in English are identified using scholarly academic journals. By comprehending the historical value of some old literature, this research also makes use of it. The main purpose of this study is not to layout systematically the key aspects of Education philosophy of ancient Greek or Stoic philosophy of education to develop moral character of learners rather to understand the aspects of ancient educational philosophy of Greek and how these can be applied in current situation to the character education solutions in various context (Leitlande, 2021). The article is based on the education philosophy of key Greek philosophers such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle. Furthermore, Educational philosophy of Stoicism is discussed in the context of moral education.

Key findings

Presently, there is no one-size-fits-all answer to the question of what the Optimal Education System is. However, the ancient philosophy of Socratic Method and Stoicism may provide some useful guidance. The Stoics believed that education should be based on the individual student's needs and abilities, and

that it should be tailored to help the student live a good and fulfilling life. This approach is still valid today and is one of the reasons why the Stoic approach to education is one of the best. The curriculum should be flexible and adaptable and should focus on the student's character and moral development, rather than just on academic subjects. The Stoics also believed that the best education system is based on ancient philosophy. The goal of a Stoic education is to help students develop their moral character.

The findings also suggest that the Optimal Education System could be based on Ancient philosophy, particularly the teachings of Socrates. One of the key benefits of a philosophy-based education system is that it teaches students how to think for themselves. Rather than simply memorizing facts, students in a philosophy -based system are encouraged to ask questions, to analyse and to reflect on what they have learned. This approach to learning helps students to develop their own thinking processes, and to become independent thinkers. In addition, the Socratic Method encourages students to become life-long learners.

Today, there are a growing number of people who believe that the best education system is based on ancient philosophies. These people believe that the best way to develop the whole person “intellectually, morally, and physically “is to adopt a curriculum that is based on the teachings of ancient philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Proponents of this view maintain that the benefits of an education system that is based on the teachings of these philosophers are numerous. One of the main benefits of this type of education system is that it teaches students how to think for themselves. In addition, this type of education system can help to foster a love of learning in students. It is found that while there are many different education systems in the world, the best one is based on incorporating some of the key principles of Greek education system with modern education system.

The ancient Greeks believed that the best way to learn was through questioning and discussion. This philosophy is still in use in some of the schools and institutions throughout the world. The Socratic Method is a teaching technique where students are encouraged to ask questions and debate with their classmates. This method helps students learn how to think for themselves and develop their own opinions. The ancient Greeks also believed in the importance of physical education. Students learned how to box, wrestle, and throw spears in order to prepare them for battle. In addition to physical education, the Greeks also emphasized the importance of music and mathematics. Students learned to play the lyre and to recite poetry. They also studied geometry and arithmetic. The Greeks believed that a good education was necessary to develop a well-rounded person.

Discussion

Education is one of the most crucial parts of every culture. It is in charge of the following generation's development and the continued existence of a civilization. There are numerous distinct educational systems around the world, each with its own set of advantages and cons. The ideal educational system is one that is founded on ancient philosophy. The Ancient Greeks were among the first to construct a philosophically based educational system. This approach was quite successful and is still utilised today. The primary purpose of this method is to teach pupils how to think for themselves and form their own opinions. In addition, the system teaches pupils how to be ethical and responsible. The Ancient Greeks developed a highly effective educational system, which is still in use in some regions. The Ancient Greeks believed that education was meant to help individuals become virtuous and wise. The educational system was separated into three categories: grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy.

The ancient Greeks felt that asking and conversation were the most effective methods of learning. This attitude is still prevalent in many schools today. The Socratic Method is a teaching strategy that encourages pupils to ask questions and argue with their peers. This strategy teaches kids how to think for themselves and form their own conclusions. The Ancient Greeks also emphasised the value of physical education. Students studied how to box, wrestle, and throw spears in order to be prepared for combat. In

addition to physical education, the Greeks emphasised the value of music and maths. Students learnt how to play the lyre and recite poems. They also learned Geometry and Arithmetic. The Greeks felt that a good education was required to create a well-rounded individual.

The ancient Greeks established one of the first and most successful educational systems. They felt that education was required to create a well-rounded individual. The method was founded on the idea that people should learn about every element of life. The Greeks believed that education should focus on three areas: the arts, sciences, and practical skills for everyday life. This philosophy is still taught in many schools today. The arts are vital because they teach youngsters to express themselves. The sciences are vital because they teach children how to think clearly and critically. Practical skills are vital because they teach youngsters how to care for themselves and be productive members of society. The ancient Greeks felt that the greatest method to educate students was to teach them three subjects: science, practical skills, and philosophy. The goal was to generate well-rounded individuals who were knowledgeable in a variety of fields and capable of thinking independently. This theory is relevant today and can be used to design the finest educational system.

Conclusion

In present time where the world is characterised by VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) and there is unprecedented level of technological advancement there is a growing urge for reviving some of the key ancient Greek educational principles to provide a better educational experience to all learners. Many of us strongly believe that by incorporating methods such as Socratic and Stoic system education can be fit for the purpose. There are number of premises that show why such age-old educational principles can be more proactive than current form of education and these are: (1) More rationale philosophy is the heart of the ancient model of education, (2) Ancient Greek educational philosophy is more holistic in nature that not only focus on individual moral development but also social and community development, (3) For better citizenship development the ancient Greek model especially Stoic and Socrates models are better and (4) in terms of cost effectiveness the age-old model is more effective. It is important to note that education is the backbone of society as social progress and development is impacted by good and optimal education system of a nation. An optimal character-based education system helps to cultivate in young minds to understand the dynamics of the world, helps to learn new skills, and thinking beyond their thinking with creative and innovative ideas. The current study proposes that one of the best optimal education systems can be based on incorporating some key principles of ancient Greek education model such as Socratic and Stoic principles. Students learn more by asking questions and through innovative ideas. The Socratic model is based on asking questions. The relationship between teachers and students are very close in which teachers ask questions and students answer. This system allows students to think about what they are learning. By doing so teachers also can monitor their students and identify what they need to learn.

Education without character, scientific progress and development without human values, liberal politics without integrity & truth, businesses & enterprises without ethics, friendship & love without sincerity, and a bond without trust are the fundamental causes of the erosion of virtue. Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore also criticised the current education system in his article "Siksar herpher" in 1892 and called the schools in his time `prisons`. He believed that education that neglects the learners and their needs rather heavily focuses on the textbooks and the school authorities destroy individuality and authentic learning.

According to Plato, both individual and social justice can be achieved through excellent and moral education. This social justice is obtained when individuals develop their ability to the fullest. For Plato, such justice is referred to as excellence which means virtue. For Socrates, virtue is knowledge; when the

education system becomes the engine of societal progress in economic terms, such societies will face severe social injustices and challenges. To bring societal harmony & justice, modern education should be guided by the Platonic view of education: character education to provide comprehensive solutions to the current societal problems and address various dynamism.

Modern education should focus on the quality of character the learners develop in their education journey, not the excellence in education in economic, structural and reputational terms. It is not good enough to gain profit if we lose our souls. We all must revisit the world's social order and human values. The contemporary world is based on the estimation, assumption, fabrication, falsification, mistrust, conflict, quantification of humans and greed. Respect, dignity, love, morality and trust are all neglected or bypassed. We are witnessing an unprecedented degradation of human values & character. Despite this, did we ever ask this question about this moral degradation? Did we raise the issue of what the ultimate goal of our child's education is? As parents, do we want our children to become only high performers in society or build their character to live with dignity? As educators, do we care to provide an education that ensures lifelong scaffolding to our learners to make them moral citizens? As a policymakers at the heart of the Government, we realise that the citizen's character powerfully guides the nation's character.

Martin Luther King Jr posited that the purpose of education is to "build intelligence plus character. For him, good education provides one not only power of concentration but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate". The character-building process should start from primary school and then move to higher education and beyond. An essential aim of teaching is to develop learners' moral habits, soft skills and skills for life.

Limitations of the study and the direction for future studies

There are several limitations to this study. Future study will focus on overcoming these limitations in order to provide a solid and thorough understanding of the key concepts of ancient Greek educational philosophy in improving modern education systems.

1. **Literature review conducted for this study:** A systematic literature review is conducted using limited parameters to identify relevant sources of literature, which limits the robustness of the literature because it excludes some important sources published in other languages in various contexts. As a result, our understanding of ancient Greek educational theories may be insufficient.
2. **Generalization of findings:** The primary purpose of this research is to determine how some of the fundamental ideas of ancient Greek educational philosophies can be implemented in the present education system to create a better educational model. However, it is vital to highlight that the social, cultural, political, and technological contexts in ancient Greece differed from those in the modern world. As a result, while generalizing major findings, it is critical to proceed with caution.
3. **Lack of empirical validation:** The study relies on a systematic literature review, which lacks empirical validity. Future research will focus on this issue in order to validate the findings.
4. **Emphasis on Socratic and Stoic Methods:** While the Socratic and Stoic Methods are identified as key educational principles that can be incorporated into modern education systems to improve learning experiences, the current study does not consider how other ancient Greek educational systems can be incorporated into the proposed optimal system. The study also did not address modern educational challenges such as technological integration, cultural inclusion, and diversity, which are critical for delivering an ideal educational system today.

Study Implications

The study is important for various stakeholders' groups such as educational institutions, educators, learners, policymakers, curriculum developers, and the education authority & government. They will be able to incorporate the key findings of this study to develop a holistic educational system to provide character building educational model which is very important for the wellbeing of the community. The adequate implementation of the key principles of Greek educational philosophies such as Socratic Method will help educational Institutions to cultivate a sense of social responsibility, ethical reasoning, problem solving and critical thinking in learners. This could result in an educational system that not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates individuals who are well-rounded and capable of making a positive impact on society. Furthermore, the results suggest that character education should be prioritised, which could potentially impact educational reforms and pedagogical strategies on a global scale.

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