Summary of the Teaching of Philosophy in Fiji

Philosophy in the National goals of Education

The aim of the Ministry of Education is to provide their pupils with a holistic education for a peaceful and prosperous Fiji.⁶ There mission is “To provide a challenging teaching and learning environment, in partnership with stakeholders, that will nurture and empower the Child to become a competent member of society.”⁷ Furthermore, in Fiji the purpose of education is to “support the development of students with positive attitudes and to empower them with a firm foundation of knowledge, skills and values to maximize their potential to meet the challenges of living in a dynamic Fiji and the global society.”⁸

The main values upon which the education system is based are:

- Cultural understanding, empathy and tolerance
- Human rights, human dignity and responsibility
- Safety and security for all (but especially the child)
- Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice
- Civic pride
- Environmental sustainability
- Flexibility
- Compassion
- Faith
- Integrity

³ The GER is used in the education sector and by the UN. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics the definition of the GER is the “total enrolment in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in a given school year.” Its purpose is “to show the general level of participation in a given level of education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of a particular age group. It can also be a complementary indicator to net enrolment rate (NER) by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment.” It is calculated by dividing “the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in a given level of education regardless of age by the population of the age group which officially corresponds to the given level of education, and multiply the result by 100.”
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ Ibid.
⁶ N/A
⁸ Ibid.

Population: 839,000 (2007)¹
Gross Enrolment Ratio²
Primary: 94% (2007)
Secondary: 82% (2007)
Percentage of government expenditure invested in education: 20% (2002)⁴
Compulsory Education: N/A⁵

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- Peace and prosperity
- Life-long learning
- Sense of family and community
- Creativity

The Ministry of Education also states that it is committed to the following principles for all teaching, learning and care:

- A recognition of the need for and importance of partnerships in all elements of education provision
- Professionalism in all that we do
- Quality and excellence
- Access and equity
- Accountability
- Our constitutional rights and responsibilities

**Primary education**
Not available at this moment.

**Assessment**
Not available at this moment.

**Case studies of philosophy teaching in primary schools:** Identified courses called “philosophy” in schools
Not available at this moment.

**Case studies of philosophy teaching in primary schools:** Philosophy related teaching in schools
Not available at this moment.

**Secondary education**
Not available at this moment.

*Schools have always been interested in three kinds of outcomes: skills, knowledge and character, and while developments in the first two types have gone leaps and bounds in recent years, character education appears to be more challenging and more difficult. It seems like we have a crisis of character in our country. I wish to remind us all that we have an obligation to address the moral and ethical issues that are of growing concern today. A proactive approach needs to be taken and long term solutions should be identified to address critical issues such as student absenteeism, discipline problems, drug abuse and poor academic performance.*

Assessment
Not available at this moment.

Case studies of philosophy teaching in secondary schools: Identified courses called “philosophy” in schools
Not available at this moment.

Identified programmes to provide teaching materials in philosophy
Not available at this moment.

Links
http://www.education.gov.fj/
http://stats.uis.unesco.org/

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