Summary of the Teaching of Philosophy in Tonga

Philosophy in the National goals of Education

The education system in Tonga is highly centralised. The Ministry of Education makes all decisions regarding education as follows from the 1974 Education Act. According to the Tonga Education Policy Framework (TEPF) 2004-2019 the MOE envisions that Tongan education will:

- Encourage people to think for themselves (p. 2)
- Contribute to their society (p. 2)

And on a more general level “it should help us find the right balance between the needs of the individual, the transmission of Tongan culture, and meeting the development needs of Tonga society.” (p. 2)

There are also several values underlying the TEPF 2004-2019, which are divided into personal values and philosophical values. The personal values are:

- To think strategically and recognise linkages
- Strive for achievement, innovation and excellence
- To care and act upon it, e.g.
  - Charity

3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
8. Ibid. p.16-17
9. Ibid. p.17-18
To question, challenge, take responsibility and bring solutions

To support basic human rights, e.g.
  - Freedom of expression
  - Freedom of worship

Have a healthy body and a healthy mind, i.e. the development of the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical

The **philosophical values** according to the TEPF 2004-2019 are:

- To focus on “the development of the individual to realise his or her potential as a human being, living a self-fulfilling life and as a worthy member of Tongan society and the wider world.” (p. 17)
- To strengthen cultural and moral values, e.g.
  - Tongan values like tauhivaha’a (caring), mamahi’me’a (responsibility), faka’apa’apa (respect), and lototō (humility)
  - Generally agreed values like honesty, personal integrity and justice
- To acknowledge the important role of parents in the child’s emotional, social and physical development
- To acknowledge the role of the government
- To support and stimulate people working in the field of education
- To acknowledge and value the contribution of communities, NGO’s and churches
- The acknowledgement of the role played by international agencies

**Primary education**

Primary education consists of six years.

**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
Secondary education consists of seven years.

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.

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

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

Links
http://www.ibe.unesco.org/

http://www.tongaeducation.gov.to/

http://www.unesco.org/education/wef/countryreports/tonga/rapport_1.html (Last checked January 2010)

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