Skepticism

Skepticism means “the method of suspended judgment, systematic doubt, or criticism that is characteristics of skeptics”. In general skepticism is an attitude or behavior when one feels that doubt and uncertainty in different beliefs and things of the world.

In the context of philosophy, skepticism is a broader term. It is considered as a philosophical school of thought itself and also generates new methodologies regarding the subject. A skeptic only feel satisfied when he/she knows that whatever they believe is correct and there is some logic behind this. And only this can remove their uncertainty and doubts over the subject. The confused and ambiguous attitude is unacceptable for the skeptics. This skeptic behavior is considered as very important in the philosophical terms. Philosophy is about questions and skepticism can only be removed when different questions are asked about a particular topic or the subject. Philosophers always encourage questions, because when these questions are answered, only then they will be satisfied.

Though the concept of skepticism is not supported over all, because this often yields to nothing. This concept is sometimes confusing and misleading. The believers are usually of a kind that does not believe on anything which is clear; they keep themselves under the doubts and disbeliefs, and they got very vague arguments to support their ideas.

The concept and theory of Pyrrho is quiet popular here, but it is never considered to be the best. Because all it exhibits and demonstrates is not believing on the theories and concepts. On the other hand, there is another theory of Plato, which is quiet acceptable, as it gives a real good idea to the believers of skeptics, that they should carry on their struggle for knowing the truth and the real reasons behind the objects and problems, but must agree on the logics given. This is considered as an important part because at least they will be stop at somewhere, where as usually skeptics keep on asking, “How do you know”. Plato gives an idea that one must agree to some point and should agree with the idea, reason or thought or theory, which looks like more plausible and acceptable, of course with logic and explanation.

The work of Rene Descartes is considered as important as well. In all fields and disciplines, it is observed that the people are of all types and caliber. Few people are having the knowledge and are capable enough to deliver it fully and some people got nothing with them and therefore are not capable of satisfying someone. If someone wants to give reasons to the other person, the first thing he need is the knowledge. If the person is devoid of knowledge and wisdom, then there is no chance that he can answer the questions asked by the skeptic.

The main thing in skepticism is that whether the questions asked by the skeptic are valid or not. There are examples of many dense and baseless questions asked by the skeptics. And this is not possible that these questions can ever get the answer. The person asking questions must be fully entitled for this and should be avoided. Or the term used by the writer is “defeating the defeater”. Here he is mentioning the defeaters, those people who are in a habit of asking questions, and people cannot think that they can be wrong or on error. But they could actually; few people might ask questions which they think that they came across while dreaming. Now how can someone come across valid and suitable questions while dreaming or in any other condition like this? It could be a delusion as well.

Another idea given is that sometimes the skeptics are ignorant of few things. They might not know that what is actually the functionality
of the particular object is, so they keep on asking the questions that might be irrelevant in some cases. So first they should be asked to understand the object or the particular thing completely, few points might be explained to them in this case, but after knowing the object and the particular problem completely, and they should be asked to continue with their questions.

Another philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), gave a theory that there are few limits to the human knowledge as well. They are only capable of answering the questions, which they knew. The questions about the proof of God and His existence should not be asked. These questions are out of range of philosophers or any humans. And neither do these questions make sense at all.

So the above points can be implemented in the real life and like this the meaningful skepticism can be adopted and this is the only way when men can get real answers to their real questions.

Works Cited
Sextus, Philip. Selections from the Major Writings on Scepticism, Man, & God. Hackett Publishing (1985)