HEURISTIC APPROACH IN TEACHING: ESSENTIALS FOR TEACHERS

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The word ‘heuristic’ is rooted in the Greek word ‘heurisko,’ which means ‘I find’ or ‘I discover,’ emphasizing the active role of learners as discoverers of information by experiencing meaningful opportunities on their own.

Used to describe the learning process, Maheshwari (2016) describe heuristic as the process of gaining knowledge or attaining the learning outcomes on one’s own rather than following a standard formula. The main objectives of heuristic strategy in the teaching-learning process are to develop among learners the abilities to self-learning, critical thinking, logical thinking, verifying information, non-bias judgment, and scientific thinking.

The K-12 program characterized learners as active recipients, actors, and capable of discovering and managing their learning; hence, higher-order thinking skills and other necessary 21st-century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, technological, intrapersonal, interpersonal skills, among others are being developed among them.

But the biggest question is, ‘how can learners become independent discoverers of information?’ The answer lies in the actual classroom practices.

Teachers must see to it that learners are placed in learning situations where they can discover, analyze, apply, and evaluate information on their own and not merely by telling them what to do and how to do things. Meaning, meaning heuristic teaching is more on self-discovery and self-inquiry for the learners. Hence, no supervision is needed most from the teachers in doing actual activities.
By creating such a learning environment, learners are becoming more observant, critical-minded, and reflective of their thinking, behavior, and action towards learning. Following the scientific method, problem-based learning, inquiry-based learning, discovery learning, and reflective learning principles, the heuristic strategy makes learners explore, describe, predict, and explain problems and situations on their own. Though the use of the heuristic approach in teaching elementary grade pupils, there are still meaningful ways on how to teach them to work independently and discover things on their own. It is better to gradually release the learning responsibilities on them as they transcend to higher grade levels.

References: