IMPLICATIONS OF REALISM AND IDEALISM TO EDUCATION

by:
RONALD P. BANTUGAN, EdD
School Principal I, Sampaloc Integrated School

Relatively, idealism and realism are both classic but two different philosophies of education. They are called the rival philosophies. The first one is symbolist (idealism) and the other one is materialistic (realism). A realist, on the other hand, sees the world as it really is now, and considers how to improve it, one step at a time (Stephen, 2015). Even though, they have differences in terms of definitions and focus, what matter is, we learn and these become basis to learn.

In terms in the aim of education, in idealism, the students will discover their abilities. On the other hand, in realism, the pupils will be given complete knowledge to develop their abilities. In order to serve the society, realists believe that they can learn through trainings but on idealists’ view, they will do it on their own.

These philosophies aim to enhance the students’ abilities. Also, guidance is the key to make someone becomes successful. Like in Vygotzky’s Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), we need more knowledgeable others to learn. If after that, we can do it on our own and later on that we can discover the things that we can’t believe that we can do.

In terms of curriculum, idealist view is based on what happened on the past and based on books. In contrary, in realist view, it must be focused on present world. The focus of the curricula on idealism is the subject of matter of mind such as literature, history, philosophy, and religion and on realism is the subject of physical world like science and mathematics.
It is good that we look back to our past to learn but we should always remember that we are living in the present. We can gain strategies from the past but we must also focus on the things that happening in the present world.

From the above stated discussion, it provides a complete guideline for the students, teachers, learning activities and many more.

Realism and Idealism are talking about mind and the world. Both the philosophies have to well furnish the students’ cognitive strength that is useful to prepare him for the life and its challenges. As a teacher, there is no such thing as perfect approach in comes to teaching. Whether you are a realist or idealist, what matter is, the students are learning to your means.

References:
