THE IMPORTANCE OF PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

by:

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In all schools, each teacher has a set of related beliefs, a philosophy of education that influences how students are taught. A philosophy of education represents the answers to the questions about the purpose of schooling, the teacher's role and what should be taught and by what methods. Teachers' philosophy of education guides them to develop students in a holistic way. There are different philosophies in education to choose from, it will help teachers on how to deal with the unique individuality of the students. At very start, future teachers are engrossed to the different philosophies of education. These philosophies of education are really anchored in the Philippine educational system, because the objectives in every lesson focused on cognitive (Knowledge), psychomotor (Skills) and affective (Values). Imagined if only one philosophy of education is being applied, for example idealism; we developed the mind of the learners and neglect their skills it appears the learners like a lollipop. On the other hand, if the development is focused on psychomotor, the learners appear like Spartan developed body but not in mind. A holistic approach to education focuses in full person development not only in academic side.

Let us engage ourselves to idea of some of the philosophies of education.

Idealism is a philosophical approach that has as its central tenet that ideas are the only true reality, the only thing worth knowing. In a search for truth, the focus is on conscious reasoning in the mind. To understand truth, one must seek knowledge and identify to have an absolute mind. In idealism, the aim of education is to discover and develop each individual's abilities in order to better serve society. The curricular emphasis is subject matter of mind. Teaching methods focus on handling ideas such as lecture and discussion, it is a method of teaching that uses questioning to help students discover and clarify knowledge.
Empiricism is the philosophy of knowledge by experience. One must see, hear and touch these are the best way to gain knowledge or otherwise sense things directly. In this philosophy of education, it applies the learning by doing of John Dewey, where in learners can more understand the concept when they do it. Learners can generate knowledge because they have experienced it. Knowledge is gain through experiences, all the thoughts are applicable to different things that can be experienced.

Romanticism in education is focus on the whole child, rather than on the content or the teacher. Learners are at the center of educative process. In this philosophy, learners are encouraged for self-expression and self-actualization. The curriculum is emphasized the balances of head, heart and hands, meaning it develops the learners’ knowledge, values and skills. Romanticism is also recognizing the uniqueness of the learners; they free to choose what to learn and how to learn at their own pace.

Teleology is the philosophy of education anchored to describe things in terms of their apparent purpose, directive principle, or goal. In relation to education, Learners are driven by the ambition, goals to attain after schooling, what they want to become someday.

In my perspective as a teacher, the philosophy of education that is mostly implemented in Philippine education setup is Romanticism, because it claims that the learners’ growth and development as an individual depend on how he experiences things and self-exposure to different things to gain knowledge or to learn and understand things in life. This philosophy emphasizes that educational concern must be on the child’s interests, desires and the learners’ freedom as an individual rather than on the subject matter. It asserts that learning is a dynamic or active process and a learner learns best if he is an active participant in the learning process. In other words, the learners must learn what he lives and must accept and respond to his experiences based on the degree of his understanding of a particular situation. Romanticism adheres to the idea that thinking and reasoning should be emphasized, and that good and successful teaching utilizes the
principle of self-activity, and stimulates thinking and reasoning. It also recognizes the fact that no two individuals are exactly alike, the principle of individual differences. Therefore, the activities and experiences to be provided by the school should meet the needs and should be in accordance with the abilities of the students. Finally, it stresses group discussion and group activities as effective means of self-expression and development.

References:

http://www.wilderdom.com/experiential/JohnDeweyPhilosophyEducation.html