THE ROLE OF FIELD STUDY IN OFFERING REAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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Education students are required to learn different theories and principles related to teaching, learning and how to deal with different situations inside the classroom. These theories and principles can give them ideas on how a teaching-learning process works, what to expect inside a classroom setting, how the students learn and what are the usual scenario in a classroom. However, simply sitting on their chairs and listening to the teacher during the discussion are not enough for the education students to learn about the field of teaching, that is why field study is a very important course subject because it enriches learning opportunities of the future teachers.

Field study is where the students will be deployed to different cooperating public schools in able for them to observe how the teacher handles difficulties in the class, how the students participate during the discussion and what are the teaching strategies that are used by the teacher. As stated by Jim Wilson (2011), “it is understood by all educational discipline and potential employers that personal experiences gained by working with real world activities and in real settings enhance and improve learning, increasing understanding and knowledge.”

By having a direct experience of being involved in a real classroom scenario, the Education students will have an opportunity to discover many things that may come along their way in their chosen career. It would be less difficult for them to handle
classes once they are already in the field because they were already prepared in different situations that are related to teaching. It provides them a rich experience in able for them to have an idea on what they will soon to encounter in the field of teaching.

According to Barbara Marras Manner (2018), “for students, field studies create opportunities for first-hand experiences that encourage critical thinking, long-term retention, transfer potential, positive attitudes”. This practice for education students provides hands-on experience to witness what a real-life classroom setting looks like and how teachers deal with different scenarios and difficulties in class. Observing classes can be a best practice in able for them to learn effectively and to better understand how the theories and principles in teaching-learning process work.

It is evident that field study is one of the best ways for the education students to learn because this is an outside classroom practice that supplements the contexts being taught inside the classroom. This provides professional growth for the student observers because they may adopt the teaching practices of the teachers, they will have an advance knowledge on how they will handle different situations in the class and they will have an idea how to act as a teacher by establishing an authority in able for their future students to respect them and listen to them.

On the other hand, resource teachers who have field study students should also take part in this practice. They may provide some insights, advice, suggestions and other important things that the education students need to know in the field of teaching.
Resource teachers should also be transparent in their teaching practices so that the observers will gain concrete experiences and reliable information as they observe a particular class. They should also support and guide the observers so that they can grasp meaningful and useful insights in the field of teaching.

Through the rich experiences that the education students gain from their field study, they will be equipped with several ideal techniques, strategies and approaches in teaching that they may use when they become teachers. Indeed, field study develops professional and personal growth in which both are great advantage for them to be effective teachers someday. The practice to be a great teacher does not start once they graduated but rather, it starts during the painful process of attaining their bachelor’s degree so that they will have a strong foundation to provide quality teaching which will further be developed once they are already in the field of teaching.

References:

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