

ON THE TOPIC: 'PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION'

Summary

The Philosophical Foundations of Education, reported by the third group, covered the definition of philosophy, its branches, and the importance of it in every individual, and more importantly in education. They have discussed the Western, Eastern, and Contemporary philosophical foundations in education.

The philosophical foundations of education encompass a broad range of ideas that have significantly shaped educational theories and practices throughout history. The study of philosophy is crucial in education as it provides a framework for understanding the nature, aims, and values of the educational process. Philosophy helps educators reflect on the purpose of education, the role of the teacher, and the nature of the learning process, ultimately guiding the development of the curriculum and teaching methods.

In Western philosophy, several critical schools of thought have influenced educational theory. Idealism, founded on the belief that ideas and the mind primarily constitute reality, emphasizes the importance of

intellectual and moral development. The goal of idealism is abstract thinking. Hence, philosophy and theology are ranked as more meaningful and complex subjects, rather than science that solely discusses cause-effect relationships.

On the other hand, realism argues that the material world exists independently of human perception. It believes that the world is made of objects made of matter. Pragmatism advocates for practical and experiential learning, emphasizing the need for education to be relevant to the lives of students and adaptable to changing societal needs. It emphasizes that there is no universal truth and that reality is dynamic and constantly evolving.

Contemporary educational philosophies have built on these traditional foundations to address modern challenges and perspectives. Perennialism encourages us to explore the timeless wisdom of various religious and philosophical traditions, recognizing their shared essence and underlying truths. It teaches heavily on the humanities and general education. Essentialism focuses on imparting core knowledge and essential skills for all students or the fundamental 4 rs. Progressivism promotes a student-centered, experiential, and practical approach to education that emphasizes problem-

solving, critical thinking, and social interaction. Existentialism places a

high value on individual freedom and personal meaning, advocating for education that helps students find their path in life. Social Reconstructionism seeks to use education to address social injustices and systemic inequalities, aiming to create a more equitable and just society through transformative learning experiences.

Eastern philosophies also offer profound insights into education, focusing on spiritual and moral development. Hinduism emphasizes the immemorial way of right living. Buddhism highlights the importance of mindfulness, ethical conduct, and the cultivation of wisdom. It emphasizes that "Desire is the root of all suffering." Confucianism stresses moral virtues, social harmony, and respect for tradition, seeing education as cultivating virtuous and socially responsible individuals. It is known for the golden rule, "Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do to you." Taoism promotes naturalism, simplicity, and offers profound insights into living in harmony with the universe's natural order. Zen Buddhism offers a profound and experiential approach to spirituality that emphasizes direct experience and the realization of one's true nature, seeking to transcend conventional learning and reach more profound

levels of understanding. Islam integrates faith and learning, emphasizing the pursuit of knowledge by divine guidance and the development of a balanced character.

Learnings and Realizations as a Future Basic Education Teacher

Understanding the Philosophical Foundations of Education has helped us understand the purpose, nature, and goals of education, which will guide us in teaching practice and decisionmaking. Philosophical perspectives offer various interpretations of education's purpose, whether it's to transmit cultural heritage, foster critical thinking and creativity, or prepare learners with life skills. These philosophies are instrumental in developing reflective practices where educators can adapt teaching methods to better meet students' needs.

Although some may argue that philosophy isn't directly practical, its foundations are integral to all educational aspects, transcending subject areas. Understanding these philosophies is essential for CTP students and/or practicing teachers because it equips us with a framework to analyze and improve our teaching practices continually. It also helps us appreciate the interconnectedness of educational theories, curriculum design, and teaching strategies,

ultimately fostering a richer learning experience for the students and contributing to a more informed and supportive school community.

Shared by one of our group mates, Mr. Christian Robin Hermosa, "As a first-year teacher (and even before my teaching practice), I can say that I do not have a formally documented teaching philosophy. Although amidst this absence, my beliefs, values, and personal philosophies are evident in how I teach and interact with my students. Looking back, knowing some philosophical foundations helps me think critically about my teaching methods and their rationale. This awareness shapes how I design my lesson plans, ensuring they are informative, engaging, and relevant to my students' lives. For example, incorporating constructivist principles, I design activities that encourage students to build their understanding through hands-on experiences and collaborative projects. This ensures that my teaching methods are both purposeful and effective.

Reflecting on this, I can see how the modern approaches to education echo these foundational philosophies, emphasizing the development of the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally. This holistic view is reflected in the curriculum, which integrates core academic subjects and social-emotional learning, arts, and

physical education. It is only essential because, as teachers, our first aim is to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to navigate the world's complexities. This benefits the learners, strengthens families and school communities, and positively impacts the broader community."

Strikings Part of the Discussion

One part of the discussion that struck us the most was exploring different philosophical perspectives underpinning education. Understanding how philosophical beliefs shape educational practices and policies is crucial for us as teachers. It made us realize the importance of reflecting on our own philosophical beliefs and how they can influence our teaching approach. By becoming more aware of our educational philosophies, we can ensure that our practices align with our values and educational goals. This aspect of the topic resonated with the whole group because it highlighted the deep connection between philosophy and education, emphasizing the need for thoughtful consideration of the underlying principles that guide teaching and learning.