# Philosophy of Education: The Great River of Learning

# Thongchai Somboon, Ph.D. Ramkhamhaeng University

#### **Abstract**

The six great rivers of learning in philosophy of education are; Essentialism, Perennialism Reconstructionism, Progressivism, Existentialism and Buddhism. However, Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is also the taproot of life fulfillment under the situation of the changing world. This meaning comes through the learners' happiness and their total development. The essential characteristic of instructors involved socializing and cultivating are as the follows; 1) encourage contact between instructors and the learners 2) develop cooperation among learners as reciprocity 3) active learning 4) discuss and give prompt feedback 5) emphasize time on task 6) communicate with high expectation on students' understandings 7) respects diverse talents and ways of learning. As regarding, if instructors heartedly water the learners be happy within the changing global contexts, it can be said that philosophy of education is a sacred path of learning for the total happiness and sustainability.

Key words: 1) Philosophy of Education 2) The Great River of Learning

## Introduction

The ideology of educational metaphysic in each country is to play the major role of building and setting strategies and processes for her habitants prosperity and seeking the means to make them an appropriate identity, attributes in each period. Thus, the empirical data for the nation development usually depend on the significant educational orientation. For these reasons as mentioned, educationists and the educational stakeholders must concern on the philosophy of education as a virtual the great river which is fertilizer and moisture to educational system and make the habitants intellectuality for all in the country.

## Category of Knowledge: The Discourse of Born, Aged, Hurt and Die

The category of global knowledge is always transient impermanent like a change in each society for example in the present day , there is no usage in the Hebrews knowledge for the Cuneiform alphabet establishment or the Chinese Pictogram .In this case the knowledge applied implemented to the social progress and prosperity will be engaged in the basic contextualized community such as, politic, economic and sociocultural sphere, too. As a matter of fact, nowadays technology is the important one affected to all matter of society. In keeping with its responsibility, educational orientation has to create and build the good person and intellectual people for the nation since the people in the nation are alike the valuable raw material for the national prosperity. Easily seen, the national norms ,rites and the national tradition including with practical fork wisdom are going to "Die" because of the influential factors of the foreign culture. So both of public and private sectors must stimulate the nationalism and patriot.

#### The Great River of Learning: Philosophy of Education to Learn

Human beings actually learn or study from to be born until to be die. He normally has himself a legitimacy opportunity of an curiosity of learning in any place and time. With a long history of openness and engagement, philosophy of education must continue to play active role in promoting the essence of life in order to raise appropriate wisdom and intellectuality. But this one is quite challenge on philosophy of education instructors and those who learn..Philosophy of education must attach important to the issues of Thainess and without ideology protectorate

As mentioned already, instructors who teach philosophy of education should tell and teach the nature of understanding in metaphysic pulled through the reality and the truth with a different perspective. If they can do these ,it can be said that the "intellectual growth" is coming up. For another sides, instructors of philosophy of education must play an active function/role on searching a new paradigm of knowledge for the distribution without vague to the learners. Do not establish themselves as the Guru who know more and have more experience than the others, in fact "we are different on scholar". This understood by instructors must be evaluated as Teacher who teach philosophy of education not Teller who only tell the story if philosophy of education. However, philosophy of education in each branch has itself identity for compliance. The six great

rivers of learning in philosophy of education are projection as the follows; Essentialism, Perennialism ,Reconstructionism, Progressivism, Existentialism and Buddhism.

- 1) Essentialism is the major of philosophy of education aimed at the learner to be pound of the community tradition and also focus of Localism.
- 2) Perennialim is the one which is based on the theoretical critique or debate. Moreover ,it actually allow the learners mind to the ultimate eternity.
- 3) Progressivism concentrates of lateral thinking and focus of "everything is changeable." Learning from this philosophy of education is also based on theory to action including with implanting into democratic attitude.
- 4) Reconstructionism, this philosophy of education plays the major role of social problems solution and to build the public spirituality to the learners. Besides. it deeply develop the learners on the new knowledge.
- 5) Existentialism, there are three major aspects for consideration ,freedom ,choice and responsibility. Those are very important for the learners. Individual differences are the mind of this philosophy.
- 6) Buddhism, this is the science which promote the learners on nescience. Its major principles is good will, good action. Total happiness is the ultimate reality on the perspective of Dhamma understanding (suffering, impermanent and soulless).

# **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy: The Saddle of Liberation**

Although the six great rivers as philosophy play the human development but there is one great river to fruitful life for the total sustainability, Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. It is also the taproot of life fulfillment under the situation of the changing world.

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is the scared path for happiness. Sufficiency Economy is a philosophy based on the fundamental principle of Thai culture. It is a method of development based on moderation, prudence, and social immunity, one that uses knowledge and virtue as guidelines in living. Significantly, there must be **intelligence and perseverance** which will lead to real **happiness** in leading one's life.

Thus, the significant way to tech philosophy of education is how to build the new thinking creative thinking and to search an appropriateness of new knowledge for one's life within integration of the identity of the community and nation. In Post-modernization period philosophy of education must concern for the learners achievement as the followings;

- 1. envelops contact between instructors and learners.
- 2. develops reciprocity and cooperation, participation and collaboration among learners
- 3. encourages active learning.
- 4. gives prompt feedback.
- 5. emphasizes time on task while teaching.
- 6. communicates with the high expectation on learners understanding.
- 7. respects the diverse talents and the way of learning.

## Conclusion

Philosophy of education is actually counted as the great science for promoting and developing of the beautiful life, it is alike a compass for the national education development in each period. So the outstanding ideology of philosophy of education is to produce and cultivate the learners throughout ignorance of fact. The completeness of this must develop and maintain the learners on physical , mind , emotion and societal dimension together with morality and virtue. The last important one is that philosophy of education which the great river of learning should build and teach them for their understanding of "Being and Existence" and can be got the happy life with the others. If the instructors can do these as mentioned already , they are the "Teacher who teach philosophy of education" absolutely.

## References

Elvin, H.L. Educational and Contemporary Society in Disciplines of Education. London: George Allen Unwin, 1971.

Sinlarat.P.Introduction to Philosophy. Bangkok: Agsoncha-roentat publishs, 1973.

Thilly, F. A history of philosophy. Delhi: Manish sabbharwal SBW publishers, 1993.

# Authors

Assoc.Prof.Thongchai Somboon, Ph.D.

Department of Foundations of Education, Faculty of Education, Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok: Thailand e-mail: <a href="mailto:droatpak11@gmail.com">droatpak11@gmail.com</a>