

## Original Paper

# My Philosophy of Education—The Success Stems from Persistence and Reflection

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### **Abstract**

*Well-known that education is playing an extreme important role in all people's life. Today's world, there are many kinds of educational theories, and it can be said that the wise see the wisdom and the benevolent see the kindness. However, different ideas usually make different results to the learners. Ordinary people believe that through education, they learn knowledge and acquire the technology to earn a living. The people with lots of knowledge think that having got good education can make them have more choices or have larger stages to perform in the future. As for teenagers, they can have more friends to share joy and hobbies through school educating. While most Chinese parents think that "good education can help make children live a better life in the future or find a good job with a high salary". But as other great people, they have the deeper insight on education. They always urge young people to study hard for their country or national revitalization. Over 10 years ago, I read that American former-president, Obama (2009) ever made a speech to all the students in the US called "Why to Learn". In his speech, he said to all the children in the US and told them that "you write your destiny, you make your future. So never give up yourself, because when you give up yourself, you will really give up your country". In his speech, education means ready for the future of the country and all that people learn is for their national future purpose. While in my mind, "Good education is often to make learners enjoy themselves and share success and happiness with their partners in learning activities, not suffering lots of pain from it. Lots of teaching practice also proved, in reality, that young children through getting good education can them keep their life in a right situation during the different growing-up periods. As for young people it is completely necessary to try their best to get good education at the young ages or at work, and getting educations is not only for their future. The famous educator, Tao Xingzhi thought that education is to learn in practice. Another American famous educator, who was called Dewey also mentioned "Three Centers-Children's Center, Activity Center and Experience Center". Seeing the above, my finding that Dewey and Tao Xingzhi had the surprising*

*similar educational thoughts called “Learning in practice”. In my opinion, I think “life is education, education lies everywhere”. I always believe that success of education comes from “Persistence + Reflection”. The teaching practice that we need to do is to keep on doing, thinking over and over and reflection. This paper mainly will aim to talk about the above views on my school education and classroom teaching, including my understanding on school education and classroom teaching. I hope I can share some helpful suggestions with the other scholars or researcher who are interested in language teaching and language research. That will be very meaningful to all that I do.*

**Keywords**

*Education, My Philosophy, Persistence, Inflection*

**1. Introduction**

Currently, we advocate the educational concept of “Children oriented”, which conforms to the purpose of serving students and social development through education. Along with our society continues to go forwards, education always serves our society, it also often changes with the rapid progress of society and the development of science and technology. According to educational psychology, the essence of education is usually based on children-oriented and promotes the all-round development of children. As a teacher as well as a researcher, during the over 30-year teaching practice and exploring, I have kept trying to explore educational essence and reflect personal teaching practice on the educational and teaching problem that I have met or am facing, that is just like something bright to lead to my success which is called my philosophy of education. So I think that on education, there is no success without keeping on teaching. The main reasons are that because adherence and can make everything resulting in teaching and education sustainable. While keeping inflection can always ensure my teaching and education get on well in the right way and effective results. Being noted that having a close relationship between education and philosophy, in a way, all educational problems belong to the category of philosophical research. In fact, people’s ideas on education, which often guide the practice of teaching and education, and the practice on education can greatly enrich the ideological connotation and theory of education. The philosophy of education usually refers to people’s general views and fundamental views on the basic problems of education. If where there is a different view of philosophy in the world, there is a different view of education. In general, the philosophy of education is the concept of education, which is the understanding and views of educational issues, and people’s purpose and essence of education inquiry and reflection. Starting from teaching practice, this paper summarizes the basic research of predecessors, and makes a new thinking and summary of my own educational views, hoping to provide some useful views and references to the later generations, which is the main purpose of this article.

## 2. Philosophy and Education

### 2.1 What Is Philosophy?

What is philosophy? Philosophy is people's general views and fundamental points of the whole world. Education is the science on how to educate people, it aims at the study of the law of educational development and to some extent, all educational problems are philosophical problems. People's understanding and practical outlook on education, that is, educational thinking, guides teaching practice, and educational practice greatly enriches the connotation of educational thinking. The so-called philosophy of education usually refers to people's general views and fundamental views on the basic issues of education. In fact, Different people have different worldviews, and people with different worldviews have different educational ideas. Generally speaking, the philosophy of education, that is, the concept of education, is the general understanding, understanding and views on educational issues, and is the result of people's exploration and thinking about the purpose and nature of education. Starting from the practice of education, this article basically thinks and explores their own educational outlook on the basis of the experience of their predecessors, hoping to provide some useful help and reference for later generations, which is the main purpose of writing this article. The problem of what philosophy and education are is the primary one of philosophy of education. However, where is philosophy before that? Or what is philosophy? What can it tell us about our lives and the world? Everyone has their own opinion on this issue.

A study shows that the earliest philosophical pioneer was Thales, who believed that the origin of the world was water. Thus initiated the development of ontology.

Ancient Greek philosophy believed that philosophy is love of wisdom, and true philosophy does not refer to wisdom itself, not dynamic, but a process of goal realization, this goal is wisdom, this process is dynamic. Therefore, some people say that philosophy is actually a way of life, a part of each of our lives, because as long as we live, we need this process and need to face many problems in life.

Among the earliest philosophers in China were Lao Tzu, author of the Zhou Yi and author of the Tao Te Ching. Most of them live an inner spiritual life that is secluded and indisputable from the world. Whether it is the Western School of Leisure, Plato's Academy of Athens, or Chinese Taoism and Wei and Jing Dynasty, their lifestyles and focus are not earthly materials, but the pursuit of eternal soul thinking and spiritual freedom. That's true, sometimes, education means to rich our spirit world.

In a way, philosophy can be an academic theory, an establishment of a cognitive system of the world, or a way of life of quiet thinking. Philosophy is the transformation and absorption of the inner and outer exterior, it is contemplative, and it is formed through the collision of minds and the fusion of ideas. Philosophy emphasizes understanding the world and exploring the true meaning of life with a correct worldview – giving rather than taking. This is all meaning. As a person, living is to give, not to taking.

### 2.2 What Is Education?

Before we understand the philosophy of education, we must first understand what education is. And find out what is the essence of education? What is the relationship between the purpose of education

and the objects of education, what is the significance of philosophy to educational activities, and how to analyze the phenomena and essence of educational teaching practice.

Education in a broad sense refers to social practice activities that affect people's physical and mental development; Education in a narrow sense mainly refers to school education, which is the educator in accordance with the requirements of a certain society, purposefully, planned and organized through the work of school education, to exert influence on the body and mind of the educated. The essence of education is to promote the all-round development of people and promote social progress, and to impart knowledge and experience as a means to cultivate people's social activities.

Socrates said, "The essence of education is awakening." Einstein said, "Only after completely forgetting what you learn in class is what is left is true education." Education is also a kind of wisdom, which requires teachers to use all their strength to provide students with opportunities and space for progress. Education begins with love, but love alone is not enough; Education requires art. A truly excellent teacher should think about how to improve his own quality and professional level every day, that is, live to be old and learn to be old.

From the above analysis, it can be seen that different people have different cognition, understanding and thinking about education, that is, different people have different educational views, that is, education philosophy. Therefore, the philosophy of education can be summarized as the basic understanding, perception and perspective of educational issues; Educational philosophy is people's understanding and rational thinking about the purpose and nature of education.

### *2.3 The Relationship between Philosophy and Education*

Education and philosophy are both distinct and closely related. Philosophy of education is different from the general philosophy, which belongs to be a branch of philosophy and it mainly cares about people's life and education. It plays a vital role on education and teaching. The philosophy of education is called the applied discipline of philosophy. From the perspective of its position, the philosophy of education is a theoretical discipline between educational practice and philosophy; At a deep level, the problem of education is essentially philosophical. In this regard, the American philosopher of education George Naylor said, "Most general educational problems are ultimately problems of philosophy itself." This makes their relations very clear for us to understand.

If we do not consider the problems of ordinary philosophy, we cannot criticize existing rationality and policy of education, or propose new ideals and policies. Smith said: "All educational issues are ultimately philosophical issues. In addition, some scholars have analyzed the "dependence" of education on philosophy from a practical view. American educator Brubeck believes that "education is a process of change, and it especially needs a signpost to guide its activities." I agree on this point. But i think this change always comes from a long adherence.

### 3. A Review of Educational Philosophy

What is the philosophy of education? There are many sayings about the definition of the philosophy of education. Philosophy of education and philosophy are two disciplines that are both related and different, and their nature is different. Philosophy of education is an interdisciplinary discipline that belongs to philosophy and pedagogy. Huang Ji summarized the views of foreign scholars in “General Theory of Philosophy of Education”, and believed that the object of research in philosophy of education should be to use philosophical viewpoints and methods to analyze and discuss fundamental theoretical issues in education. The philosophy of education should include the most basic understanding and educational concepts of education by the majority of educators, such as educational methods, educational means, management methods, teaching media, and attitudes towards education. Because different people have different understandings of education, their attitudes towards work are also different.

Generally speaking, the purpose of education is to promote the all-round development of people and improve their comprehensive quality, and the purpose of education is to bring about changes in people. Therefore, the philosophy of education is a science that explores the problem of education and reveals the most universal rules and necessity of education. On the question of what philosophy of education is, different scholars have thought about and interpreted this issue from different perspectives.

An American realist educator called Dewey and a Chinese educator called Tao Xingzhi put forward the educational ideas of “education is growth”, “education is life” and “education is the transformation of experience”, which are three different perspectives of the interpretation of the essence of education. This result comes from their long-time practice and observing.

In the book “Happy Education”, Herbert Spencer (2009) put forward the problem of how to make children fall in love with learning, and put forward the principles and methods of happy education. After reading this book, has brought a profound impact to the author on my education and teaching, especially on family education and school education. In the book, Spencer objectively analyzes some problems in family education and suggests the direction for family education. So he is called Father of Happy Family Education.

The main exponents of the *constructivist theory*, Socrates, Piaget (J. Piaget), Vogotsky and others believe that learning is a process of knowledge construction that goes beyond knowledge acquisition. Knowledge is the subject’s experience, interpretation, and hypothesis, not something objective, the constructivist theory emphasizes that knowledge is acquired by learners in a certain situation, with the help of others, using necessary learning resources, and through meaning construction, rather than being taught by teachers. At present, constructivism, as a new way of educational research exploration, is widely welcomed, mainly because it breaks through the teaching concept of imparting knowledge and reinforcement learning.

Plato’s Republic expounds the idealistic views of education, “Know Himself” and “virtue can be taught”. Aristotle advocated the “liberal views of education.” Helping students to correctly understand

themselves is very beneficial to students' ideal future education and moral education. Education is to let students believe in themselves, education is to let everyone know that they are independent individuals, the only thing in the world, as long as they have the ideal goal in mind, as long as they work hard, everything is possible. Liberal education, on the other hand, is conditional, free learning is under certain conditions, giving students a certain amount of freedom and space for thinking, but not all space.

Rousseau and other naturalistic representatives, who put forward the educational idea that "good humanity" exists in the pure state of nature, and they focused on the innate abilities and primitive tendencies in human nature. It is intimately connected to the "natural state" of man: at its core is "Back to Nature." Let students grow on their own, without any constraints, trial and error by themselves, self-correction, and then make progress. This point is not suitable to the younger children, it is more suitable for college students with high ability and levels.

Overall, the philosophy of education is the general understanding, perception and fundamental views of the problems of education; Philosophy of education is people's most basic inquiry and rational thinking about the purpose of education, the essence of education, and the laws of education.

#### **4. My Philosophy of Education**

For me, my philosophy of education is that "success of education comes from long-time persistence and reflection". In my decades of education career, I deeply feel the weight and deep meaning of the word 'education'. In daily educational work, I have kept diligent, have silently dedicated myself and achieved a lot. I am just like a candle, I burned myself and illuminated my students. Education needs a type of real persistence, but it has created generations of national pillars. Education is more than a responsibility. Education is to persist on using one tree to another until a forest shaking in the end.

##### *4.1 Educational Effect Is Adherence*

In practice, true education is not overnight success, and it is to shake a forest with a tree, to push many clouds with a cloud, to awaken countless souls with one soul, to awaken their goodness and virtue, to enlighten their minds. Objectively, it is already very difficult to shake a tree, and it is even more difficult to shake a forest, but this depends on educators' adherence, who cannot give up, whatever they do. As long as there is a little potential, educator must be persevered. Because education should be oriented to all students, including their problems, not to give up students with problems, and to never abandon students with differences, which is the persistence of education. Every day I teach, I have always adhered to this principle, bringing hope to every child around me, that is to say, bringing hope to every family. Students are the unity of individuality and commonality, and the care for students cannot stop at a few outstanding students, and cannot give up a forest by seeing only a few trees in their eyes. Care for the growth and development of all students, bring love and the sunshine of life to every student, so that every life can enjoy the sunshine. In the forest, trees come and go, but even the smallest of woods will also strive to grow up to fight for the sunshine of life. In the same class, every student

attracts the attention of the teacher with his own strengths and shining points, and each student hopes to get the teacher's caring eyes, and they all hope that under the care of the teacher, they can slowly grow into a towering tree and become a pillar of society in the future. Therefore, in the eyes of teachers, there must be a whole forest, and there must be all students in their hearts, because the development of society requires all kinds of people, not certain talents.

#### *4.2 Educational Responsibility Is Still Persistence*

The world rises and falls, and it is the responsibility of man (Gu Yanwu. Qing Dynasty). Education is the work of cultivating people, and the growth of talents is a long-term and arduous process, the so-called "ten years of trees, a hundred years of tree people" (Guanzi). Therefore, education is not only the responsibility of teachers, but also the responsibility of the trinity of school, family and society. Responsibility is a spirit of long-term persistence, because it takes a long time to watch and work hard to cultivate a person, and it is not very difficult. I remember that in the early summer of that year when the epidemic was particularly severe, the ninth grade of junior high school was arranged to go to the vocational middle school to attend classes in full closure, and so parents, students and teachers became retrograde without turning back. According to the epidemic prevention requirements of the superiors, we have ended all online classes and adopted all closed classes. Although closed teaching carries more responsibilities and risks than online teaching, students are safer and the classroom teaching is more effective. As educators, we have the responsibility to support the arrangements of our superiors, whether online or offline, and strive to stick to our posts and serve to improve the quality of education. At the same time, caring for every student means caring for the future builder and successor of the country. Because the future of each student and the one of the nation is closely linked. Therefore, teachers should fulfill their educational responsibilities and guide students to study hard for China's future prosperity.

#### *4.3 Importance of Reflection and Thinking*

All educational issues need to be reflected and thought by teachers, and all teaching inspiration comes from the thinking of educational practical experience. Whether a teacher is mature and excellent enough depends on whether he has formed a clear and stable educational philosophy. At the same time, a teacher needs long-term persistence and reflection if he wants to grow into an educator; The quality of education depends on whether teachers adhere to educational reflection and educational thinking.

This view of educational reflection should not be a description of educational phenomena, but a grasp of the essence of education, a fundamental thinking on the purpose, task and mission of education, and this kind of thinking, understanding, understanding and exploration of educational issues is called the educational philosophy of teachers.

#### *4.4 Keeping Reflection Ensures Educational Trail in the Right Process*

Educational practice shows that there is no education without love. In almost every school, there is a very special group of people who either have bad character or learning difficulties, and they need to be cared for. However, most of their differences are due to non-intellectual factors such as family

environment, emotional attitudes, character defects, methods, and effort levels. As time goes by, this difference between them will grow and eventually reach an insurmountable point. They need being paid attention. In this group, it is difficult for them to grow into trees, but they cannot be abandoned, especially teachers need to help them minimize the gap with others.

I once interviewed 10 students with learning differences who had no confidence in learning and had already given up learning in primary school. According to statistics, there are about 5-8 such students in each class, and there are 13 classes in a grade, adding up to hundreds of students, what a terrible number! There are so many students in a grade with problems, the impact and damage to the academic style and class is great, if no one cares about them, they get together after class to bully classmates, which will cause campus obscenity; If they harass classmates who love to learn, it will affect the discipline of the class. Their problems are because of the lack of love and the problem caused by education. So, understanding them and caring for them, correcting their behavior and not making them worse, is the mission of education. Teachers should be good at discovering the potential of every student, sowing the sunshine of love in the heart of every student, and letting the rain and dew moisturize every dry heart. Pay attention to the bright spots of each student and make their potential better developed. It is necessary to seize the opportunity, pay attention to them from the subtleties, and achieve “prevention of micro-development”.

#### *4.5 Keep on Reflection Can Help Adjust Teaching Method*

Books are the key to acquiring educational wisdom as well as the ladder of human progress. And teachers want to use a proper teaching method through continuous learning. Education is a systematic engineering. Cultivating talents is the purpose of education, and education is constantly evolving. Therefore, teachers need to constantly improve and develop themselves, in order to adapt to the ever-changing and developing society for talent requirements, because the mission of education is to deliver a variety of talents in all fields of society. While the wheel of history rolls forward, and science and technology is making rapid progress with each passing day. Therefore, the education of cultivating talents is also developing, changing, and progressive. Teachers need to keep pace with the times, take the initiative to learn, improve themselves, and develop themselves in order to adapt to the changing times. In particular, teachers' professional growth and moral cultivation should change with the times. In the process of development and change, teachers should be good at discovering the shortcomings of their knowledge and theoretical level, and learn and improve them in time. There are many ways to improve teachers, which can be improved through teaching reflection and listening to class learning; It can also be used to learn theories and improve business level through teaching case studies; You can also improve your knowledge level through further study.

Teaching practice shows that the professional learning and improvement of professional literacy of teachers directly benefit students a lot. Teachers should influence their students with good behavior and noble morality, and should subtly infiltrate students with rich knowledge. Even the worst students are proud to have met a good teacher.



Therefore, teachers must constantly absorb new knowledge and be willing to accept new educational concepts, so that students can learn things and grow faster. A teacher who is good at learning will definitely have rich knowledge, his thinking will become deeper, and his methods will definitely be more suitable for the development and requirements of more students.

In today's society, to give students a glass of water, teachers must have several buckets of water. Students' thirst for knowledge is multifaceted, and teachers should not only have rich professional knowledge, but also other related disciplines. Because education is the cultivation of human knowledge, each person's needs are different and have levels. In the face of subject teaching, teachers should have higher requirements for themselves, and the teaching method should be "always teaching and always new", be flexible, and adapt to the requirements of learners at different levels. Therefore, if teachers want to successfully complete all education and teaching tasks, they must always keep a clear head, strive to learn new knowledge every day, new ideas and new teaching methods, and constantly strengthen their personal moral cultivation in order to be a qualified teacher.

## 5. Conclusion

Seeing from the above description and analysis that education refers to let students "be close to their teachers and believe in their ways" (Dai Sheng. Western Han). Education is not omnipotent, but it is sacred; Without education, the tree of life will wither. While educational philosophy is a study that specifically addresses educational issues, and is the deepening and precipitation of educational perspectives; The philosophy of education has been enriched, depend on developing in guiding educational practice. Therefore, every successful teacher or educator has his own teaching ideas and educational concepts, that is called educational philosophy. Their view of education is the result of their understanding and thinking about the phenomenon of teaching, and it is also the result to take them a long time to explore the nature of education. Outcome of the research comes from a depth reflection on educational practice. For decades, I have deeply cultivated in the fertile soil of education and quietly dedicated myself. Keeping on using my own persistence, reflection and thinking to better the whole students that are participate in study hard for life and his favourite things till they succeed in the end.

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