

College Teachers' Educational Philosophy: A Step towards Improving Teaching Performance

¹ **Joshua B. Tupas**

West Visayas State University-Janiuay Campus
Cabesa Jose D. Brana Street
Januay, Iloilo, Philippines

² **Guiller P. Pendon**

West Visayas State University-Janiuay Campus
Cabesa Jose D. Brana Street
Januay, Iloilo, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The transition from the traditional education system to the global system made some changes in the teachers' educational philosophies. The teacher is a mentor, director, and educational leader in the educational process. A successful teacher is the one who is able to organize the work and classroom life, thus, teachers are somehow guided by certain philosophies as they enhance their pedagogical skills before practicing their profession. This study aimed to find out the prevailing educational philosophies of teachers when taken as a whole and when classified according to sex, age and area of specialization. The respondents of the study were the 62 regular college faculty of the West Visayas State University-Janiuay Campus who were chosen through total enumeration. Data were gathered with the aid of a self-made philosophic inventory checklist which was validated by experts and pilot-tested. It utilized the descriptive design to collect, analyze and classify data on the prevailing educational philosophies of pre-service teachers. Results showed that college faculty were likely to accept reconstructionism, behaviorism and progressivism as educational philosophies when taken as a whole and when classified according to sex, age and area of specializations. Conclusions and recommendations have been drawn at the end of this study.

Keywords: Educational Philosophies, Prevailing, Teachers

Educational philosophy is a combination of how a person desires to teach and the motivation to be a lifelong learner. The most effective teachers vary their styles depending on the nature of the subject matter, the phase of the course, and other factors. By so doing, they encourage and inspire students to do their best at all times throughout the school year (Brewer, 2000).

Teaching philosophy statements are now studied for a variety of reasons: as part of a job application process; to be included in a promotion and tenure dossier; for a teaching award; or to foster reflection about how and why you teach. Regardless of purpose, the goal ought to be preparation of statements that reveal those beliefs and practices characteristic of an individual teacher. Teaching philosophy statements that accurately describe the instructional self isn't easy, given that so many begin teaching careers with little training and continue them with episodic professional development. A set of resources can do much to assist the process and an impressive collection is necessary (Lucas, 2006).

A teaching philosophy is a self-reflective statement one's beliefs about teaching and learning. A teaching philosophy should discuss how one puts beliefs into practice by including concrete examples of what one does or anticipates doing in the classroom.

Education is the most important and most noble of human endeavors. All other activities have their foundation in education. It enables humans to achieve their fullest personal, spiritual, mental, social, and physical potentials. The ability of being educated is what distinguishes humans from animals. Education transforms an individual and allows her to effect change in her environment (Sadker, 2008).

Education is a continuing voyage of discovery, an everlasting quest to achieve the fullest wisdom and stature that God meant for us. Education, according to Smeyer (1994), is a lifelong learning process that can take place in an infinite variety of circumstances and contexts. According to Curren (2007), education is "the range of activities both formal and informal whereby people are initiated into or realigned with the

evolving traditions, structures, and social relations which are taken to constitute their education.”

True education means more than the perusal of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come (Brewer, 2000).

Educational philosophy is philosophy applied to education as a specific area of human endeavor. It involves bringing those critical reflections which characterize philosophy in general to influence and direct the range of experiences and possessions that may be referred to as education. Philosophy of education does not exist in a vacuum, but within a particular social and historical context (Bandura, 2006).

Educational philosophy, according to Carlson (2008) has three dimensions: (1) the personal, (2) the public, and (3) the professional. The personal dimension has to do with having a set of personal beliefs about what is good, right, and worthwhile in education. The public dimension is aimed at guiding and directing the practice of many. The professional dimension provides specific guidelines for the practice of teaching. The importance of a philosophy of education is that it defines the purpose and focus of an educational institution. It becomes a part of its mission statement which in turn defines what subjects are taught, how they are taught and, perhaps more importantly, the values that are taught both implicitly and explicitly along with the subjects being covered.

According to Lucas (2006), the purpose of education, as described by philosophers, is generally considered to be the reproduction of a culture. This can take several forms. In a conservative environment, it can mean the maintenance of the status quo. In a more liberal environment it means the teaching of values that are considered to be desirable. In effect, the schools serve to create a culture and mores that are not currently part of the culture but are perceived as desirable. In any case, it means that the values taught are those of the church, government, or other system that controls the schools.

Whether intended or unintended, schools serve to reproduce a culture. Education is a critical part of a child's socialization (Shaffer, 2000). It is where they learn not just the obvious tools for life but the cultural mores, values and social tools for life. The question I choose to address is who is responsible for determining the sort of training students receive in school.

The educational process depends on four fundamental aspects: the education institution, teachers, curriculums, and the students. These four aspects correlate with each other strongly.

In fact, all aspects are being integrated into the educational process in any educational institutions. Each one of those aspects is working side by side to support the other aspect accurately. It is well known that an educational philosophy reflects a social philosophy. A social philosophy is considered as a plan to guide the educational process.

A relation between philosophy and education is unclear; however, there is acceptance for this relations existence. Some people believe that education is a result of philosophical doctrines, and educators are, in fact, philosophers. Moreover, education is a process of keeping and transferring social heritage throughout history.

The educational philosophy helps to understand and to modify the educational process. It helps to identify conflicts and contradictions in any theory. It develops the human capacity to raise questions about theory. Also, it clarifies concepts and assumptions that are underlying educational theories. Vividly, it's clear that the importance of studying the educational philosophy at the present time is to understand

deeply the educational process. Each fundamental aspect has a basic function in the education process.

This study entitled “Prevailing Educational Philosophies among Teachers” was founded on the following principles:

Firstly, the education institution – the school – is a social educational institution which plays a significant role side by side with other aspects. The primary function of the school is raising the children by transferring the cultural heritage from previous generations. Additionally, within the school environment children learn the basic studies such as: knowledge of religion, history, literature, science, and linguistic. Those studies will be made clear by teaching specific curriculums for each level and gradually, starting from primary education to higher education.

Secondly, the teacher is one of the fundamental aspects of the educational process. The transition from the traditional education system to the E-learning system made some changes in the teachers’ role. The teacher is a mentor, director, and educational leader in the educational process. A successful teacher is the one who is able to organize the work and classroom life. Also, he creates a desire in each student to do the work. In the concept of emotional intelligence, a person who’s able to understand his emotions has the ability to understand and to control others’ emotions. Pursuing this further, the teacher affects the learner both emotional and behavioral ways.

Thirdly, curriculum is not less important than other aspects. It’s defined as all the educational experiences that are offered by teachers at the school. Besides that, there are several dimensions that must be accrued in any curriculum. Those dimensions are objectives, content, teaching methods, and assessment. Objectives mean all knowledge that is established by the educational institution and achieved by students. The content is the component of the curriculum which organizes all knowledge in a particular manner in order to achieve all objectives. Both previous dimensions will be explained by the teaching method. It means the way that is used to deliver information by the instructor to students. The assessment aims to determine if the student may have reached all educational objectives in all areas or not. All the previous aspects are working together to create a healthy and educational environment for the student, who’s considered a fundamental factor to build the future.

Although there are many different branches of education, the present time requires the presence of philosophy in the field of education, considering that the educational philosophy derives its subject from education. It is a must that teachers and even pre-service teachers have to have his beliefs, values and knowledge anchored on certain educational philosophy to be able to define themselves, the school and the community they share their expertise with. Thus, this study was conducted.

This study was anchored in transformative learning theory wherein learning refers to the changes the way we see ourselves, those around us, and the world. It is not simply learning new knowledge or skills or extending what we already know into a new topic or domain. It actually changes “what we know”. Transformative learning is based on three (3) fundamental activities: learning from experience, critical reflection, and personal development. In learning from experience, experiences can be planned or unplanned and can involve individuals in various ways; eg, cognitively, physically, emotionally. If and how individuals learn from that experience is influenced by their own world view, values, and beliefs. Experience may trigger learning for some and not for others. It is suggested that transformative learning occurs when one cannot easily fit a new experience into their existing knowledge, views, or perspectives. Such a situation stimulates reflection. Critical reflection is a cognitive process by which individuals question existing knowledge and importantly, underlying beliefs and assumptions, including those related to power distribution, and strive to make sense of a new

experience. Frequently this process elicits emotional responses. It is the re-examining of long-held beliefs and values that leads to transformative learning.

Along this line of thought, the researcher found it necessary to identify the prevailing educational philosophies among teachers of the West Visayas State University-Janiuay Campus when classified according to sex, age and area of specialization.

This study aimed at ascertaining the prevailing educational philosophies of regular teachers during SY 2014-2015 at the West Visayas State University-Janiuay Campus.

Specifically, this study sought answers to the following questions:

- 1) What are the prevailing educational philosophies of college faculty when taken as a whole and grouped as to sex, age and area of specialization?
- 2) What are most and least prevailing educational philosophies of college faculty when rank according to sex, age and area of specialization?

Methodology

This study utilized the descriptive design to collect, analyze and classify data on the prevailing educational philosophies of teachers of the West Visayas State University – Janiuay Campus.

As the initial step, the researcher identified the respondents during SY 2014-2015. Identification of student-respondents was based on sex, age and area of specialization.

The researcher constructed a rating scale designed to determine the prevailing educational philosophies of teachers.

The tentative draft of the philosophic inventory checklist was submitted for validation to a panel of jurors who are expert in the field of educational philosophies. It was pilot-tested in order to determine the reliability of each item. After the questionnaire was revised and finalized, permission to conduct the study was secured from the campus administrator and the instrument was distributed to teachers at the West Visayas State University-Janiuay Campus. The researcher gathered the accomplished instruments as soon as the respondents finished answering them.

The answers of the teachers in the philosophic inventory checklist were used as the basis in determining their prevailing educational philosophies. The data obtained from this investigation were tallied, computer-processed, analyzed and interpreted.

Respondents

Table 1
Profile of the Respondents as to Sex, Age and Area of Specialization

<i>Categories</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Entire group	62	100
Sex		
<i>Male</i>	24	39
<i>Female</i>	38	61

Age		
<i>Young</i>	38	61
<i>Old</i>	24	38
Area of Specialization		
<i>Education</i>	14	23
<i>Information and Communication</i>	14	23
<i>Hotel & Restaurant Service Technology</i>	16	26
<i>Industrial Technology</i>	9	14
<i>Caregiving Management</i>	9	14

Research Instrument

The data-gathering instrument that was used in the study was a self-made philosophic inventory checklist which was validated by the panel of experts. The instrument consists of two parts. Part One requires personal data such as name, sex, age and area of specialization. Part Two is the instrument proper which contains thirty-six (36) item statements utilized to draw out the respondents' prevailing educational philosophies. Six (6) items are assigned to relate to and focus on each six common philosophies in education, namely, essentialism, behaviorism, progressivism, existentialism, perennialism, and reconstructionism.

There were five responses to be determined: Strongly Disagree, Somehow Disagree, Somehow Agree, Agree, and Strongly Agree.

“Strongly Disagree” means that the respondents do not entirely accept, agree or believe in the given statements.

“Somehow Disagree” means that the respondents are somewhat in doubt, more or less differs in belief, and yet unlikely to accept the concepts or ideas presented in the checklist.

“Somehow Agree” means that the respondents are somewhat in doubt, more or less differs in belief, and yet likely to accept the concepts or ideas presented in the checklist.

“Agree” means that the respondents positively accept or believe the given statements.

“Strongly Agree” means that the respondents totally accept or believe the given concepts or statements.

In determining the results an arbitrary scale was used:

<i>Scale of Mean</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.0 - 1.80	Strongly Disagree
1.81 - 2.60	Somehow Disagree
2.61 - 3.40	Somehow Agree
3.41 - 4.20	Agree
4.21 - 5.00	Strongly Agree

Findings

Table 2

Means and Standard Deviations Prevailing Educational Philosophies of Teachers when Taken as a Whole and Classified According to Sex, Age and Area of Specialization

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>
Entire group	3.46	.51	Agree
Sex			
<i>Male</i>	3.42	.50	Agree
<i>Female</i>	3.49	.52	Agree
Age			
<i>Young</i>	3.43	.50	Agree
<i>Old</i>	3.51	.54	Agree
Area of Specialization			
<i>Education</i>	3.44	.52	Agree
<i>Information and Communication</i>	3.71	.47	Agree
<i>Hotel & Restaurant Service Technology</i>	3.19	.40	Somehow Agree
<i>Industrial Technology</i>	3.34	.54	Somehow Agree
<i>Caregiving Management</i>	3.37	.48	Somehow Agree

Table 3

Means, Standard Deviations and Rank of Prevailing Educational Philosophies of Teachers when Classified According to Sex

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Sex				
<i>Male</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	4.10	.41	Agree	2
<i>Behaviorism</i>	3.00	.56	Somehow Agree	6
<i>Progressivism</i>	4.33	.55	Agree	1
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.00	.00	Somehow Agree	4.5
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.00	.00	Somehow Agree	4.5
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	4.00	.00	Agree	3
<i>Female</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	3.80	.45	Somehow Agree	2
<i>Behaviorism</i>	3.57	.57	Somehow Agree	4
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.69	.55	Agree	3
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.00	.00	Agree	5.5
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.00	.00	Agree	5.5
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	4.00	.00	Agree	1

Table 4

Means, Standard Deviations and Rank of Prevailing Educational Philosophies of Teachers when Classified According to Age

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<i>Age</i>				
<i>Young</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	3.70	.61	Agree	3
<i>Behaviorism</i>	3.42	.72	Agree	4
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.74	.68	Agree	2
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.00	.00	Somehow Agree	5.5
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.00	.00	Somehow Agree	5.5
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	4.00	.00	Agree	1
<i>Old</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	2.85	.60	Somehow Agree	6
<i>Behaviorism</i>	2.87	.49	Somehow Agree	5
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.64	.41	Agree	1
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.50	.37	Agree	2
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.34	.40	Somehow Agree	4
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	3.41	.48	Agree	3

Table 5

Means, Standard Deviations and Rank of Prevailing Educational Philosophies of Teachers when Classified According to Area of Specialization

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<i>Area of Specialization</i>				
<i>Education</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	3.85	.41	Agree	3
<i>Behaviorism</i>	3.47	.56	Agree	5
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.80	.56	Agree	4
<i>Existentialism</i>	4.00	.00	Agree	2
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.10	.46	Agree	6
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	4.50	.41	Strongly Agree	1
<i>Information Technology</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	3.63	.59	Agree	2
<i>Behaviorism</i>	3.87	.45	Agree	1
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.62	.44	Agree	3
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.55	.35	Agree	4
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.31	.39	Somehow Agree	6
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	3.35	.49	Somehow Agree	5

<i>Hotel & Restaurant Services Technology</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	2.45	.62	Somehow Agree	6
<i>Behaviorism</i>	2.85	.57	Somehow Agree	5
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.71	.33	Agree	1
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.45	.46	Agree	2
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.42	.46	Agree	4
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	3.60	.41	Agree	3
 <i>Industrial Technology</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	2.63	.59	Somehow Agree	6
<i>Behaviorism</i>	2.87	.45	Somehow Agree	5
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.62	.44	Agree	1
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.55	.35	Agree	2
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.31	.39	Somehow Agree	4
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	3.35	.49	Somehow Agree	3
 <i>Caregiving Management</i>				
<i>Essentialism</i>	2.63	.59	Somehow Agree	6
<i>Behaviorism</i>	2.77	.45	Somehow Agree	5
<i>Progressivism</i>	3.72	.44	Agree	1
<i>Existentialism</i>	3.50	.35	Agree	2
<i>Perennialism</i>	3.31	.39	Somehow Agree	4
<i>Reconstructionism</i>	3.35	.49	Somehow Agree	3

Discussion

Findings showed that when taken as a whole, and classified according to sex, age and area of specialization, the scores of the teachers of WVSU-January on prevailing educational philosophies were described as “agree”. This means that both males and females, regardless of sex and age, were likely to embrace a certain educational philosophy with inclinations to possess beliefs or concepts, and area of specialization although they do not strongly advocate or single out one among the six common educational philosophies.

When the mean scores was ranked among males, it showed that males were progressivist and less behaviorist. The result is understandable, since progressivism is the ideological enemy of essentialism, and while behaviorism does not considered subjective implications in the field of learning but rather controlled responses, essentialism forgets to look into the emotional, social and physical well-being of the learners. Essentialists claim that progressives are premature in trying to teach students to think and solve problems before they have first acquired a body of reliable knowledge to think in terms of. In other words, essentialists feel that you can’t think in terms of a vacuum.

Progressivism begins the shift from teacher-centered to student-centered philosophies. Progressivism, as put forth by John Dewey, is very pragmatic and scientific in the way students approach learning (Sadker & Sadker, 2008). Knowledge is attacked as a puzzle to be solved using previous knowledge and orderly steps for discovery. The teacher serves as a guide for students and encourages them to learn through real-life situations. The curriculum is focused on the needs of the students to develop real world functioning skills. As Dewey believes schools should be “institutions engaged in opening a path toward a more democratic, humane, equitable, just, and sustainable tomorrow; and

thus an institution engaged not in reproducing and legitimating inequality but in challenging it, not in promoting norms of docility but rather norms of democratic civility” (Carlson, 2007).

These concepts could be a justified and sufficient reason for male teachers’ positive acceptance of progressivism. Students are the core beings of instruction as teachers act as guides to attend to their special needs.

Another result revealed that young and female teachers were more likely accepted reconstructionism and less accepted the essentialist and perennialism educational philosophies .

As seen, the female and young teachers’ main role is that of a resource person or a research project director who guides the students’ learning rather than being a dispenser of knowledge. In this role, the teacher carries on a dialogue with students, helping them identify problems, frame hypotheses, find data, draw appropriate conclusions, and select efficacious courses of action (praxis).

They have utilized the subject matter from any or all disciplines when needed to solve a problem. They would probably deal more, however, with the subject matter of social experience in solving problems.

The positive acceptance of reconstructionism as an educational philosophy by the female teachers could be attributed to the fact that many writers view it as only an extension of progressivism, which the teachers also accept as educational philosophy. Like progressivism, reconstruction is based on the “pure” philosophy of pragmatism.

The teachers were somehow in doubt of essentialism and perennialism which were a teacher-centered philosophies that stresses rigorous practice with the traditional subjects: reading, writing, math, and science. As essentialists or perennialists would value deep knowledge on a few core subjects, as opposed to more general knowledge on a wider array of subjects.

Reconstructionism, as put forth by Harold Rugg, George Counts, and Theodore Brameld, aims for “students to learn to identify problems, methods, needs, and goals and to implement aggressive strategies for effecting change.” (Reed & Davis, 2011) In the student’s attempts to instigate social changes, the teacher is their mentor. The teacher’s duty is to take the academic and personal goals of the student and find a correlation between that and an issue facing society. Students become involved in the community at large instead of restricted to their academic community.

The result also revealed that old teachers positively accepted or believed on the progressivism being described as “agree” and with less acceptance on essentialism being described as “somehow agree”.

Old teachers got the highest mean score in progressivism among the educational philosophies because this was supported by the idea on Progressive education movements wherein primarily old scholars were considered an integral part of the early twentieth-century reform impulse directed toward the reconstruction of American democracy through social, as well as cultural, uplift. When done, these old scholars and reformers contended, education promised to ease the tensions created by the immense social, economic, and political turmoil wrought by the forces of modernity characteristic of fin-de-siècle America (Curren, 2007).

As to area of specialization the teachers with specialization the field of education totally accepted and believed in reconstructionism being described as “strongly agree” and were somehow in doubt with other educational philosophies.

This means that education teachers is believed to have applied reflective inquiry method to life’s problems. They have possessed sense of commitment and responsibility on the part of their students. They have developed the goal of initiating change which is of course very controversial.

Martens (1999) mentioned that as far as the educational views are concerned, the reconstructionist sees things the same way as the progressive—up to a point. For example, reconstructionists believe that students learn more, remember it longer, and apply it to new situations better if they learn through experience, rather than through being told something. Reconstructionists, like progressives, do not favor any type of ability grouping. They feel students should be grouped only upon the basis of common interests. Reconstructionists also like flexible student seating arrangements, but since there is so much involvement outside the classroom, seating is not even an issue.

Reconstructionists share the progressive's view of student discipline. Moreover, they feel that if students are actively involved in bringing about change in areas that concern them, they will not become frustrated, and therefore, will not be likely to become discipline problems. Reconstructionists prefer to evaluate students subjectively on the basis of their ability as a social activist rather than give written examinations. Like progressives, they feel that student self-evaluation has a proper place (Adams, 2003)

The teachers with specialization in Information Technology positively accepted behaviorism being described as “agree” and somehow in doubt with the ideas of reconstructionism.

In behaviorism, learners were considered as passive learners. Does this say something about the result of the test among Information Technology Teachers?

Behaviorism has had a pronounced impact on educational practice. It is of course common for teachers to reinforce such things as giving correct responses to questions. The programmed instruction and teaching machines of some decades ago worked on Skinnerian principles, in that correct responses to questions were acknowledged and praised virtually instantly (Huitt & Hummel, 1998). Many elements of behaviorism are still to be found in the work of some contemporary educational researchers, who ‘operationally define’ their concepts (that is, define them in observable terms), and who use so-called ‘objective measures’ that they believe do not rely on making judgments about the subjective beliefs and commitments of those who are being studied.

However the learning conditions for students in a reconstructionism environment boast “group learning experiences and cooperation with the community.” (Reed & Davis, 2011) The group learning experiences must be authentic, require immediate social action, and have internal value to the students. Not only do the students benefit from such a curriculum, but the community also receives something tangible in return for their tax money, and students receive valuable life lessons which strive to make them true humanitarians.

The result also revealed that teachers with specialization in Hotel and Restaurant Services Technology, Industrial Technology and Caregiving Management had similar responses. These teachers positively accepted Progressivism and were somehow in doubt and yet likely to accept the concept, ideas in essentialism.

This means that the Hotel and Restaurant Services Technology, Industrial Technology and Caregiving Management were pedagogical Progressives who embraced the child-centered pedagogy favored education built upon an experience-based curriculum developed by both students and teachers.

Teachers played a special role in the Progressive formulation for education as they merged their deep knowledge of, and affection for, children with the intellectual demands of the subject matter. Contrary to his detractors, then and now, Dewey, while admittedly antiauthoritarian, did not take child-centered curriculum and pedagogy to mean the complete abandonment of traditional subject matter or instructional guidance and control. In fact, Dewey criticized derivations of those theories that treated education as a mere source of amusement or as a justification for rote vocationalism. Rather, stirred by his desire to reaffirm American democracy, Dewey's time- and resource-exhaustive

educational program depended on close student–teacher interactions that, Dewey argued, required nothing less than the utter reorganization of traditional subject matter (Cooper, 1999).

Because essentialism integrates progressive and traditional education in order to focus on the moral, pedagogical challenge of providing a liberal arts curriculum to every child in the nation (Null, 2007), it can be inferred that these teachers somehow in doubt or yet to be believed that teaching is a set of “essential” core courses designed to continue traditional academic knowledge. But is it conclusive to state that these pre-service teachers generally perceive teachers as the source of knowledge and education as anything but a reflection and transmission of both culture and tradition?

Essentialists believe in education that stresses the fundamentals. Modern essentialists favor going “back to the basics” of the traditional curriculum (Marino, 2004). In essentialism, teachers think that they should educate every man’s child. Essentialists are oriented more in their outlook to their subject matter than their students. It could be thus realized that the pre-service teachers somehow agree that instruction is teacher-oriented and is focused on the intellectual growth of students—not their social, emotional, or physical development.

Existentialism, as a philosophy was also positively accepted by teachers, though it was not ranked the highest among other educational philosophies when based on the mean scores but again, the result is understandable. Let’s take a look at the existentialist’s basic tenets.

It must be noted that existentialism is the most student-centered of all of the philosophies and perhaps the most polar opposite of essentialism. Uniqueness and individuality are highly valued in the existentialist classroom. Existentialism is a philosophy based on the notion that man's existence is an internal, subjective experience (Karl and Harnalian 1993). It holds that beyond mere existence lies essence, which can be achieved by those who actively seek to discover purposefulness in their existence and to attribute personal meaning to it (Fitzgerald, 2005). They do this by making authentic, independent choices and by assuming responsibility for the consequences of those choices throughout their lives.

Once teachers recognize that reality is experienced subjectively, they must then respect and nurture their students' subjective realities. Teachers can do this by providing students with opportunities to make meaningful choices and decisions in the classroom. In encouraging students to have “the courage to be,” teachers are essentially providing them with opportunities to rehearse for life's main event: adulthood (Tillich, 1998). By continually reminding students of their personal freedom and by encouraging them to courageously transcend the temptation to avoid and deny freedom, and thereby escape responsibility for consequences, teachers will help students to develop confidence in their decision-making abilities. According to David (2008), the more confident students become, the more autonomous their decisions will be, and the less they will need to rely on the influence of others in making decisions.

In view of the findings, the following conclusions were deduced:

The study revealed that teachers at WVSU-janiuay likely differed on their acceptance of essentialism, behaviorism, progressivism, existentialism, perennialism and reconstructionism as their educational philosophies.

Based on the result it was believed that educational trainings of teachers were a result of philosophical doctrines, and educators are, in fact, philosophers. One common attribute of these philosophies was that they embraced student-centered instruction and the other is that, teachers become guides, mentors and directors in the teaching-learning process.

The educational process depends on four fundamental aspects: the education institution, teachers, curriculums, and the students. These four aspects correlate with each other strongly.

In fact, all aspects are being integrated into the educational process in any educational institutions. Each one of those aspects is working side by side to support the other aspect accurately. It is well known that an educational philosophy reflects the WVSU Janiuay teachers' social philosophy.

This study have helped the researchers understood on how educational processes have been influenced by educational philosophies of teachers. It helps to identify conflicts and contradictions in any educational philosophy. It clarified concepts and assumptions that are underlying these educational theories. Vividly, it's clear that the importance of studying the educational philosophy at the present time is to understand deeply the educational process. Each fundamental aspect has a basic function in the education process.

In a progressivist school, teachers and students are encouraged to interact with one another and to develop social virtues such as cooperation and tolerance for different points of view. Also, teachers feel no compulsion to focus their students' attentions on one discrete discipline at a time, and students may be responsible for learning lessons that combine several different subjects.

Progressivists emphasize in their curriculum the study of the natural and social sciences. Teachers expose students to many new scientific, technological, and social developments, reflecting the progressivist notion that progress and change are fundamental. Students are also exposed to a more democratic curriculum that recognizes accomplishments of women and minorities as well as white males. In addition, students solve problems in the classroom similar to those they will encounter outside of the schoolhouse; they learn to be flexible problem solvers.

In existentialism, education promotes self-worth, and takes into account individual learners as opposed to a prescribed curriculum that disregards individuality. Independent learning is empowered by the use of technology. Existentialists insist on the subject matter and method for investigation and teaching which appeal to feelings, emotional creativity and deeper meaning of life; and totally avoid the training and data based education. For them schools should cultivate insight fidelity, love and creative knowledge.

In reconstructionism, curriculum focuses on student experience and taking social action on real problems, such as violence, hunger, international terrorism, inflation, and inequality. Strategies for dealing with controversial issues (particularly in social studies and literature), inquiry, dialogue, and multiple perspectives are the focus. Community-based learning and bringing the world into the classroom are also strategies.

Reconstructionist educators focus on a curriculum that highlights social reform as the aim of education. Reconstructionists don't believe in a predetermined curriculum. They would use the subject matter from any or all disciplines when needed to solve a problem. They would probably deal more, however, with the subject matter of social experience (the social sciences) in solving problems.

While it is true that these three educational philosophies focus on subjectivity in taking into account the learner's experience in the educative process, the result of the study may well convince us that for authentic, flexible and credible learning to take place, the curriculum must be suited for learner's abilities and interests based on real life situations. Teachers must realize that instruction should no longer be based on prejudiced traditional practice that considers students as passive learners and teachers as sole interpreters of human experience and ultimate source of knowledge who expect desired responses and behavior in a classroom setting.

Hence, it is recommended that teachers may well use a philosophic inventory to consider their students' orientation so that teachers may know the methods of instruction, approaches and techniques that they may effectively utilize to cater to students' needs. Teachers, along this line, should consider problem-solving classroom techniques, discovery learning, communicative approach, inquiry method, dialectics, etc. to upgrade and enhance instruction.

The curriculum should focus on subjects that more importantly underlines individuality and free will, social reforms and issues, independence, scientific and technological and social developments.

Further researches must be conducted in order to widen the perspectives along this line. If possible, variables not being studied must be taken into account to make this study more comprehensive and other dimensions of the educational philosophies must also be explained by future researchers.

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Research Instrument

A. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Name: _____ (optional) Area of Specialization : _____

Age: _____

B. PHILOSOPHIC INVENTORY CHECKLIST

Instructions:

The following inventory is to help identify your educational philosophy. Respond to the statements on the scale from 5 “Strongly Agree” to 1 “Strongly Disagree” by circling the number that most closely fits your perspective.

	Strongly Disagree 1	Somehow Disagree 2	Somehow Agree 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1. The curriculum should emphasize essential knowledge, <i>not</i> students' personal interests					
2. All learning results from rewards controlled by the external environment.					
3. Teachers should emphasize interdisciplinary subject matter that encourages project-oriented, democratic classrooms.					
4. Education should emphasize the search for personal meaning, <i>not</i> a fixed body of knowledge.					
5. The ultimate aim of education is a constant, absolute, and universal: to develop the rational person and cultivate the intellect.					
6. Schools should actively involve students in social change to reform society.					
7. Schools should teach basic skills, <i>not</i> humanistic ideals.					
8. Eventually, human behavior will be explained by scientific laws, proving there is no free will.					
9. Teachers should be facilitators and resources who guide student inquiry, <i>not</i> managers of behavior.					
10. The best teachers encourage personal responses and develop self-awareness in their students.					
11. The curriculum should be the same for everyone: the collective wisdom of Western culture delivered through lecture and discussion.					
12. Schools should lead society toward radical social change, <i>not</i> traditional values.					
13. The purpose of schools is to ensure practical preparation for life and work,					

<i>not</i> to encourage personal development.					
	Strongly Disagree 1	Somehow Disagree 2	Somehow Agree 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
14. Good teaching establishes an environment to control student behavior and to measure learning of prescribed objectives.					
15. Curriculum should emerge from students' needs and interests: therefore, it should not be prescribed in advance.					
16. Helping students develop personal values is more important than transmitting traditional values.					
17. The best education consists primarily of exposure to great works in the Humanities					
18. It is more important for teachers to involve students in activities to criticize and transform society than to teach the Great Books.					
19. Schools should emphasize discipline, hard work, and respect for authority, <i>not</i> encourage free choice.					
20. Human learning can be controlled: Anyone can be taught to be a scientist or a thief; therefore, personal choice is a myth.					
21. Education should enhance personal growth through problem solving in the present, <i>not</i> emphasize preparation for a distant future.					
22. Human nature is constant—its most distinctive quality is the ability to reason; therefore, the intellect should be the focus of education.					
23. Because we are born with an unformed personality, personal growth should be the focus of education.					
24. Schools perpetuate racism and sexism camouflaged as traditional values					
25. Teachers should efficiently transmit a common core of knowledge, <i>not</i> experiment with curriculum.					
26. Teaching is primarily management of student behavior to achieve the teacher's objectives.					
27. Education should involve students in democratic activities and reflective thinking.					
28. Students should have significant involvement in choosing what and how they learn.					
29. Teachers should promote the permanency of the classics.					
30. Learning should lead students to involvement in social reform.					

	Strongly Disagree 1	Somehow Disagree 2	Somehow Agree 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
31. On the whole, school should and must indoctrinate students with traditional values.					
32. If ideas cannot be proved by science, they should be ignored as superstition and nonsense.					
33. The major goal for teachers is to create an environment where students can learn on their own by guided reflection on their experiences.					
34. Teachers should create opportunities for students to make personal choices, <i>not</i> shape their behavior.					
35. The aim of education should be the same in every age and society, <i>not</i> differ from teacher to teacher.					
36. Education should lead society toward social betterment, <i>not</i> confine itself to essential skills.					