

EDUCATUM

by:

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The history of Education dates back as early as the prehistoric era. When the cavemen first discovered fire, inquiry-based learning was already practiced when they utilized fire in various functions such as the source of heat during cold nights, means of cooking raw foods, and a tactical defense in keeping predators at bay. Ancient civilizations further reinforced education when they discovered systems of writing such as Hieroglyphics and Cuneiform. In our country, education was already achieved even before the pre-Hispanic era when writing script known as the Baybayin was developed and used as a form of communication among our great ancestors.

But the question lies in the context of "What is education?" Sah et. Al (2018) mentioned that education involves a life-long learning endeavor that continues from infancy to old age. Furthermore, Smith (2015) emphasized in his writing that everyone has a fair chance to cultivate learning and to share in life through education. More often than not, people think that education is synonymous with schooling and educated people are only those who graduated from various levels of educational institutions such as elementary, secondary, collegiate, graduate, and postgraduate.

This article will expound on the role of the school as a social system that promotes education but not to dwell on the notion of knowledge acquisition through schooling. John Dewey (1938) stressed that education is a process of living but not for future living. Like the Latin term educate or educere which means to elicit or to develop the potentials of individuals. Education seeks to bring out the best in every individual.

I remember Dr. Fronda stressed in one of our discussions in graduate school that theory served as a guide in generating knowledge through practice. In the course of his discussion, he also distinguished the perspectives of the rational system, natural system, and open systems concerning school as a basic social system. He further enumerated structural, individual, cultural, political, and pedagogical as the five most important elements in schools.

Under the rational system, education was viewed as a formal instrument designed to achieve specific organizational goals. Due to this perspective, scientific management was born. Frederick Taylor spearheaded a movement that sought means to use people effectively in industrial organizations. Taylor believed that individuals could be programmed to be efficient machinery. On the other hand, the natural system perspective anchored its roots in human relations. Mary Parker Follet pioneered the human relations movement that believed in the dogma that conflicts enriched human nature but this perspective was best connotated with Hawthorne's works and experiments. Lastly, the Open System Perspective contradicted the assumption that organizational behavior could be isolated from external factors. This perspective strongly emphasizes that external forces such as competition, resources, and political pressures from the environment greatly affect the internal functioning of an organization.

As of the moment, our educational system is classified under an open system, problems are endorsed to the proper authority to seek immediate solutions. In the process, we cannot deduce that these problems can be eradicated outrightly but at least the gravity of these dilemmas can be lessened. Remember, the Educational system is a complex organization and we cannot separate various factors that can predispose educational blights.

On the side of educating the students, our country is starting to realize the true meaning of education is not based on the context of schooling for learning. Teaching strategies that recognize multiple intelligences and individual differences are already

considered in delivering quality education to the 21st Century Learners. Migrant teachers delivered their lessons to the Generation Z populace using techniques understandable to them. Passion and interest for learning are acquired by the students, one step at a time using their own pace through the application of differentiated learning instructions used in their classrooms.

Since the educational system is composed of different key elements such as inputs, a transformation process, outputs, feedback, and the environment. One should not overlook the role of these elements in delivering quality services to its target populace. Keep in mind that one cannot take the other to come up with a successful educational system. Educational blights occur due to the presence of external factors such as culture and politics. As supported by the study of Lunenberg (2010), schools are open systems in which two or more persons work together in a coordinated manner to attain common goals.

Also, students are individual components of the school system, Ralph Waldo Emerson said that they should not be made out of memorized words but should be of essence____ equipped with the basic skills acquired through education and experiences from the university of life. To wrap up, you need to ponder on one of the main goals of education that is to mold globally competitive but highly satisfied individuals in society.

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