Philosophy of Islamic Education & Philosophy of Eastern Education

Tutorial Group 3

Comparison (Definition)

**Eastern**
Education nurtures good behaviour in man through good manners, consideration, respect for our elders, love of those younger than us and loyalty to love for King and country.

**Islamic**
Education encompasses the intellect and physical domains, as well as character formation characterized by bravery and respect for others. (Al-Ghazali)

Education is to produce good thinkers and achievers in all aspects of life: physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual. An educated person is ready to serve society and country at all times.

Education is a process which produces a holistic and balanced individual. It also aims to develop fully the intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual potentials of the individual. (Mohd. Qatb)

Comparison (aim)

**Eastern**
- Make the children as free as possible
  - give students the freedom to explore and to question, to engage in creative activities and use their imagination freely.
  - Make lessons enjoyable
  - conduct lessons in an environment of fearlessness and whenever possible outdoors.
  - Make lessons life centric
  - let children explore their surroundings in a practical way - by taking part in tilling, sowing, harvesting, animal husbandry and workshops in carpentry, pottery, textiles, or computers.

**Islamic**
- To inculcate noble character
- To train man to be courteous and be good human beings
- To produce a good man in term of being respectful and doing noble deeds
- To educate the soul to be refined and perfect

Comparison (teacher's role)

**Eastern**
- skilful facilitator and disseminator of knowledge
- to know and understand his pupils in order to maximize potential abilities
- catalyst to initiate pupils’ discussion
- Teacher need to see the insight into the character of his pupils and their gifts for pursuing different fields of knowledge to advise them as to which subject to pursue for later stages of life
- encouragement to students in attaining educational goals.

**Islamic**
- skilled facilitator and disseminator of knowledge
- to know and understand his pupils in order to maximize potential abilities
- catalyst to initiate pupils’ discussion
- Emphasizes the importance of healthy rivalry and competition

Comparison (curriculum)

**Eastern**
- Stresses on knowledge and physical activities. Some of the subjects recommend include following:
  - Music
  - Arts
  - Literature
  - Drama and Dance
  - History
  - Environmental Studies

**Islamic**
- The education stress more on the strengthening of faith, the building of good character, the acquisition of health, the gaining of literacy and the art of a craft.
  - Grammar should be taught to the student followed at the age of fourteen onwards by mathematics and then philosophy.
  - Sports should also be taught and students should spend certain hours of the day in participating in some form of it.
  - Students should begin to earn some kind of livelihood while those who have the appropriate mental constitution and intellectual ability should continue their education further in such fields as medicine or other sciences. (Ibnu Sina)

Question?

Select an Islamic Philosopher of Education and an Eastern Philosopher of Education. Then, compare between Islamic Education and Eastern Philosophy of Education using suitable graphic organizers and also present their points of views.
Envisioned that an education that was deeply rooted in one’s immediate surroundings but connected to the cultures of the wider world, predicated upon pleasurable learning and individualized to the personality of child. He emphasizes the importance of an empathetic sense of relationship with the surrounding world.

Confucius’ view of education is based on the conviction that “man is born with uprightness.” True knowledge, in Confucius’ view is self-knowledge. In education there should be no class distinction. Education is an opening of the mind.

Confucious

A child should be taught the words of the creed in his earliest days and be taught the meaning gradually as he grew older. If the parents, and later the teachers, brought him up in righteousness he would live happily in this world and they would be rewarded by God for their good deed, and if they neglected the child’s upbringing and education he would lead a life of unhappiness in both worlds and they would bear the burden of the sin of neglect.

Al-Ghazali

Question?

To what extent has the Eastern Philosophy of Education been adopted and applied in our education system?

Malaysia has also highly taken into account JERIS’ aspects in its National Philosophy of Education to create not only knowledgeable but also citizens with good values.

Education in Malaysia is an ongoing process towards further effort in developing the potential of individuals in a holistic and integrated manner; so as to produce individuals who are intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically balanced and harmonious, based on a firm belief in and devotion to God.

Thus, priority is given to subjects like music, history, moral education, art and literature in order to create an emotionally, socially and spiritually balanced student.

Teachers

Education in China believed that teachers are facilitators and skilful educators.

Likewise, education in India also emphasizes on teacher’s role as facilitator especially during students’ discussion.

The same goes to Malaysia, whereby Philosophy of Teacher Education is aimed to create teachers with good quality, and able to achieve excellence in education.

Thus, today’s education is not only teacher oriented but also student oriented. Teachers are people to be referred to if students encounter problem in their studies.

Teachers are sent to attend various seminars related to effective teaching techniques from time to time.
Education for all

- One of the famous Eastern philosophers is Confucius. He stated that everyone deserves education, without taking count of their economic and social status.
- This goes the same for Malaysia. Here, education is given to everyone, regardless of their status and capability.
- Moreover, a lot of schools for special needs students are built so that these students are treated equally and be taught to live independently.
- Students who are less fortunate are given various forms of help such as free uniforms and stationeries.

Values

- Furthermore, Eastern Philosophy of Education’s contribution towards our National Philosophy of Education is about producing responsible and high-morale citizens.
- Rabindranath Tagore’s philosophy of education stated that education is given to enable individuals to live in a community and hold on to the principle of cooperating and respecting one another.
- Therefore, subjects such as History, Morale Education and Islamic education are taught in Malaysia to teach these values.

References