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EDUCARE: International Journal for Educational Studies will provides a peer-reviewed forum for the publication of thought-leadership articles, briefings, discussion, applied research, case and comparative studies, and expert comment and analysis on the key issues surrounding the educational studies in general and its various aspects. Analysis will be practical and rigorous in nature. The EDUCARE journal, with print ISSN 1979-7877, was firstly published on 17 August 2008, in the context to commemorate the Independence Day in Indonesia. Since issues of February 2009 to February 2016, EDUCARE journal was organized and managed by the Lecturers of FKIP UMP (Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto) in Central Java; and published by Minda Masagi Press, as an academic publishing owned by ASPENSI (the Association of Indonesian Scholars of History Education) in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia and BRIMAN (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia Academic Network) Institute in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, since 2018 to date. The EDUCARE journal is published twice a year, i.e. every August and February. Website: www.mindamas-journals.com/index.php/educare

FOREWORD



Our society is continuously confronted with diverse issues, whether social, political, or even cultural matters. These can be attributed to the differences among people's beliefs, unscrupulous practices, and utmost-self-interest. However, despite the many differences and problems that surface in the society, still, people are together to acknowledge one of the greatest developments of man, that is education. Education is used as a tool to understand and solve these issues. Moreover, this also serves as an avenue for growth, development, and eventually progress of the nation.

Since the early years, our parents or guardians have inculcated in our minds the value of education for a promising life and rich future. Thus, it is imperative for us to use education for the common good of mankind. In the academies, our tasks are contributory to the delivery of this common good. Through research, we develop the confidence to solve problems that are beyond our capacity to decipher solutions. Decisions mainly rely on facts collected; hunches may work, yet, research works best. After all numerous inventions are started with minute intuitions.

At present, there are calls for responses to universal design for learning. Its idea and practice have been in existence in developed countries, like in the United States of America, Canada, Japan, and others. On the other hand, it remains a dream for third world countries, like the Philippines and Indonesia, for until now bigger budget allocation for education is very elusive.

In the absence of sufficient fund for school expenses, the demand for teachers to be creative in preparing relevant materials to meet the needs of students still exists in African countries, like Nigeria and Ethiopia. Because of the universal design for learning idea, more doors inevitably have to open so that learners in inclusive education environment would benefit from further generation of knowledge.

The e-retailing and call center businesses, without a doubt, continuously flourish. This industry somehow serves as a cushion to threats of unemployment. Various behaviors of people involved in invisible work environment deserve to be assessed to address gaps occurring in this domain. English speaking labor force from India and the Philippines, for examples, could be a fine source of a research population. Clients from different countries also play important roles by supplying information on how to improve e-services.

Gender roles remain a relevant issue in Middle East and Southeast Asian countries. Standards change in order to maximize the full potential of men and women without being abrupt and not compromising their customs and traditions that they have been embracing for many years. More women become interested to pursue higher education; while men shift their interest to softer work assignment. This concept of masculine and feminine balance can be given a closer examination.

Moreover, it is vital to promote studies on special population and ethnic minorities. Their advocates may not be enough to contribute for their well-being and social support, but to generate data anent their situations would pave the way for more actions from various research enthusiasts. If we could help develop themselves and invest for their education, they are great addition in building the nation.

Dangerous as it may seem, very few studies are conducted about terrorism, environment degradation, sexual abuse, human trafficking, corruption, drug abuse, and other ills in the society. Perhaps it cannot be avoided that ethical issues will be raised, when studies are conducted along these areas. It could be challenging to find out, whether or not the foregoing is linked to education.

The countless issues that surround a family still need a thorough scrutiny. The interdependence among parents and their children focusing on their values, aspirations, paradigms, and other variables are worthy of discussion. I wish that articles of EDUCARE journal form part of the shelter that we live in which we call society.

Actually, the articles issued in the EDUCARE journal, for February 2018 edition, come from many countries that consisted of authors from India (one article), authors from the Philippines (one article), and authors from Indonesia (three articles). The authors of India stressed that self-evaluation of teachers can be considered as a process of looking at teachers' own progress, development, and learning to determine what has improvement and what areas still need improvement. Self-evaluation of teachers can be considered as a process of looking at teachers' own progress, development, and learning to determine what has improvement and what areas still need improvement.

While the authors of Philippines said that critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. Most formal definitions of critical thinking characterize critical thinking as the intentional application of rational, higher order thinking skills, such as analysis, synthesis, problem recognition and problem solving, inference, and evaluation.

And last but not least, the authors of Indonesia studied pertaining the teaching Arabic; teaching Mathematics; and character education in the educational institutions. This first article of Indonesia said that Arabic is indispensably necessary, especially in the Muslim-majority in Indonesia. The second article of Indonesia related to the material of the space geometry was not an easy matter to be mastered by students. Students need their imagination to visualize the shape, which came from the two-dimensional images shaped into a three dimensional or vice versa. While the third article of Indonesia said that character education has been an important agenda since the beginning of Indonesian independence, in mid 1940s to date.

Do enjoy reading the EDUCARE journal and hopefully you will derive much benefit from it.

Manila, Philippines: February 28, 2018.

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