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TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

**Introduction**

Teaching is a process that facilitates learning (Farrant, 1980). Brookfield (1990), simply explains philosophy as a sense of purpose of teaching and reflection of one’s personal teaching beliefs and values and how one will implement these beliefs and values in the classroom.

Anthony (1990), defines teaching philosophy as a personal vision of teaching: a critical rationale of teaching or one’s sense of purpose of teaching. Teaching philosophy is a brief reflective essay concerning understanding how students learn, how instruction can best assist learning, and how actions that one takes to enact such instruction (Haugen 1998).

With reference to the authorities cited above, teaching to me is the act of assisting students to acquire knowledge, values, skills and attitudes that will help them to become useful in society. Teaching philosophy is said to be a reflective on one’s personal teaching and values. It is the best way one thinks teaching and learning should be done.

I believe that a teacher should assist, guide and help students to learn. Asides this, the teacher equally learns from the students. Creating an enabling environment is key to ensuring effective teaching and learning.

**Statement of my Teaching Philosophy**

In relation to the above, I believe that teaching and learning are intertwined and should go hand in hand with the teacher serving as a facilitator in the process.

The teacher must be a trustworthy person so that the students can rely on him or her as a good facilitator.

I sincerely believe that examples should be related to the students’ immediate environment and the L1 should be used to explain some concepts to students. Previous experiences should be a platform for learning new concepts. To this end there are a number of activities that a teacher engages him /herself in order to improve upon the quality of teaching and learning situation from time to time. Some includes effective questioning and answering and eye breakers as and when necessary.

The teaching and learning of Mathematics should be child- centered. Here the child or student is the primary beneficiary and every necessary effort should be put in place to ensure the students benefit.

**Application of my Teaching Philosophy**

My teaching philosophy portrayed how I carried teaching and learning activities throughout my internship, I used the previous experiences of the students to serve as a foundation upon which I developed my lessons. This was accompanied by appropriate and adequate teaching aids with series of examples to facilitate students understanding of new concepts. I tried as much as possible to set examples that are related to the student’s environment.

Questions and answers, as well as discussions were the major methods and strategies I employed. I believe that students are not empty vessels and so have some knowledge before coming to school. This previous knowledge hence needs to be tapped through discussions and questioning. Their contributions during discussions and questioning made them active participants in the teaching and learning process.

**Effectiveness of my Teaching Philosophy**

My teaching philosophy has been very effective because, learning starts from known to unknown, simple to complex, etc. students had the freedom to express their views and this enabled me to ascertain their ignorance about some facts and also boosted their confidence to realize that, after all, they have some unconscious ideas before coming to school which through the methods I employed helped them to build upon. This made my work very easy because, students grasped most concepts very fast. I never tolerated any act that will prevent a student from expression his or her view in class. The students were free to express their concerns, question and answer questions. This made most of the lessons lovely and off cause successful.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, I must say that the joy of every teacher is to see his or her students; exceling in their various fields. This is also an indication of successful teaching and learning during their schooling days.