Assignment #1: The Education Pendulum

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An educator has many roles and responsibilities One responsibility of educators is to have a clear understanding of educational paradigms. Educational paradigms are the current thought for how students should be taught the curriculum. Having an understanding of current educational paradigms can allow an educator to know how they influence education in regards to roles of educational leaders, teachers, and students. It is also important for an educator to understand the importance of educational paradigms. If an educator has an understanding of educational paradigms, they will be better prepared to teach their students.

**Identifying educational paradigms**

When looking at educational paradigms, it is important to understand both the past as well as the present paradigms. When looking at educational paradigms of the past twenty years, it is important to understand that teaching was lecturing to students and having them absorb the material (Zhao, 2015). After lecturing students, it was common to give an assessment on the material that (Zhao, 2015). One of the previous views of education was that students all learned the same way and lecturing and testing students was an acceptable method of teaching (Zhao, 2015). By understanding previous educational paradigms one can begin to understand paradigms in place today.

There are multiple educational paradigms that have been implemented recently. One of the common approaches within the educational system is to allow students to be more hands-on and have more ownership in their own learning (Zhao, 2015). Schools have taken the hands-on approach to the education of students because it has been realized that not all students are the exact same. Allowing students to be hands-on can allow them to figure out what they enjoy or not enjoy and can expand on that in the future of their learning. Schools have realized that students are different and courses have to be offered that interest and motivate students (Hart, 2019). It is important that students be given the opportunity to be hands-on in order to determine what their interests are for the future (Hart, 2019). In other words, one of the educational paradigms that can be seen in today’s time is hands-on learning for students. One of the things that has helped shape hands-on learning and this shift in education is the use of technology. Technology has allowed students to be more hands-on in regards to their own learning capabilities (Zhao, 2015).

Another educational paradigm that can be seen within the education field is co-teaching. Previously it was common to have students separated if there was a learning disability or language barrier (Ahmed Hersi, Horan, & Lewis, 2016). Recently there has been a push to co-teaching and having students with disabilities or students who spoke another language in the same classroom as students who are taking regular classes (Ahmed Hersi, Horan, & Lewis, 2016). By doing this the students are in a general education class with the general education teacher as well as either an ESOL teacher or a special education teacher. That way students who have a disability or are speakers of another language can be helped or serviced by either one of the teachers in the classroom while the class is being taught (Ahmed Hersi, Horan, & Lewis, 2016). The method of co-teaching has been proven to be successful in regards to increasing academic performance of most of the students who are in a co-teaching environment (Ahmed Hersi, Horan, & Lewis, 2016).

**Roles of the educational leader, teacher and student**

An educator needs to have a clear understanding of how shifts in paradigms influence the roles of the educational leader, teacher, and student. The role that educational leaders such as school principals play within an educational paradigm is ensuring that teachers have the proper training and resources in place to teach and support the educational paradigm that is in place (Dugan & Humbles, 2018). When there is a shift in the educational paradigms the role of the principal and school leadership changes in a manner that is one that is supporting the shift. The school leadership has to ensure that the shift is being supported. A school principal has to ensure that teachers are properly trained and understand the shift that is taking place within the education sector (Dugan & Humbles, 2018). For example, the hands-on learning educational paradigm required training for teachers to understand how to support students in this type of learning environment. A school principal has to ensure that teachers know how to teach a class that provides a hands-on approach and if a teacher does not understand, then to offer more steps to better assist them in transitioning to this method of teaching. Once a principal is able to ensure that resources and training are in place for the teachers, then it means that the educational paradigm is being fully supported.

It is important to understand the role of the educator within the education paradigm. The educator’s role in a paradigm is to ensure that they are teaching the material in a manner that students understand and comprehend (Bada, & Olusegun, 2015). An educator has to have a clear understanding of the current educational climate and ensure that they are teaching in a manner that is suitable for the students (Bada, & Olusegun, 2015). Teachers have to understand that each student is different and learns the material in a different way. In other words, the teacher’s role in a hands-on paradigm is different due to the lessons being different than in the past. A teacher in a hands-on environment would more than likely employ a project-based learning environment in order to allow students to learn the material in a manner that allows the students to learn the material firsthand and by working and gaining the knowledge of the subject with an engaging experience.

The role that the student plays in an educational paradigm is to learn the material that is being taught. It is important for students to be taught the material in a manner that they understand. Each student learns material differently (Hart, 2019). As a result of this, an educator has to be able to teach material to students in a manner that multiple students can understand the material. Understanding educational paradigms can allow an educator to teach their classes in a manner that multiple students can understand. In other words, the role that a student plays within the educational paradigm is that of a learner. It is also important to understand that under the hands on model of learning requires students to take the role of being more active in their own learning process (Zhao, 2015) Under the hands on approach to teaching it requires students to be active problem-solvers who must collaborate with others in order to engage and formulate questions and potential solutions to what they are learning (Zhao, 2015). The student will typically not be aware of educational paradigms due to the fact that they are the learner.

**Importance of educational paradigms**

An educator needs to have a clear understanding of the importance of educational paradigms as well as shifting paradigms. Educational paradigms are important to the success of students in the current education system. The education system is constantly changing due to many factors such as technology. As a result of this, students are changing, and teachers must be prepared for the changing environment of education (Donovan, Ashdown, & Mungai, 2014). Each student’s education should be one that fully engages them and gives them the right amount of support from educators in order to be successful (Sturgis & Casey, 2018). As a result of the changes that take place within the education system, it is important that the way that students are taught changes as well. What worked years ago to teach material will not necessarily work now. As a result of this, it is important for educators to understand that there will be changes in how teaching should be done with new students. With new technology and new ways to keep students connected, there will be even more changes to how students will learn in the future. In other words, shifting paradigms are important to the success of the education system. The reason is because it allows teachers to understand that there might be a better way in which to teach material or a certain subject matter to the students in the classroom setting. Currently it can be seen that the current education system is one that is based upon teaching students with a hands-on approach to learning (Zhao, 2015). By understanding this, an educator can take steps to ensure that they are trying to teach their classes with a hands-on approach. However, in the future it is highly possible that the educational paradigm will be one that is based upon using more technology within the classroom setting due to emerging technology (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2018). Recently technology has helped start a shift of the educational paradigm to help with hands-on learning and allow students to collaborate with one another by the use of technology (Oreopoulos & Petronijevic, 2018). An educator who understands the shift and knows that technology can be used to engage and keep students interested in the subject at hand will ensure that the educator is doing everything to teach the class in a manner that is very engaging to everyone involved.

**Conclusion**

An educator has many responsibilities and roles that they must understand within the academic setting. One of the most important things that an educator must understand is the current educational paradigm. By understanding the current educational paradigm an educator can ensure that they are prepared and know the best way in which they can teach their students. Understanding the importance of the educational paradigm can allow an educator to know the roles that a leader, the teacher, and the students play in the process. An educator must also know and understand any sort of possible shift within the educational paradigms. That way the educator can be prepared and fully trained on new methods that might work better to teach and prepare students for the subject at hand.

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