

## *Philosophy of Adult Education*

Education is an important factor for individuals of all ages. It is a continuous process that started at birth and continues through adulthood. Adult education is just as important as education for our children. I believe the purpose of adult education is to educate in new technology, keep adults up-to-date with new advances in society, and improve standards set by society. The purpose of adult education should develop intellectual powers of the mind and make a person literate. I believe adult education should give learners practical knowledge and problem solving skills. Adult education is not only needed to teach about new issues but to teach individuals about everyday living and allow adults to receive a GED if they did not graduate from high school.

I believe the learner roles should be cultured, always a learner, and seek knowledge. With today's society being culturally diverse, it is important for the learners to be familiar with different cultures so they can relate to each other's needs. I believe it is also important to have programs that teach adults how to relate to individuals who are from different cultures. The learner should want to always be a learner and learn something new. I think adults should seek education on their own and not because somebody else wants them to be there. The learner should want to seek knowledge in a particular subject area not familiar to them. For example, a cotton farmer would want to seek knowledge from a county agent to find out what he can do to make his cotton production better. I believe learners attend programs to educate them in new job related advances. Convenience, motivation, and money are factors affecting the learner. Sometimes an educational program is not convenient for adults because they have a family that keeps them from being more flexible. I believe motivation also plays an important part in adult education. It is harder for an adult to go back to college than it is for a high school graduate. Adults sometimes feel out of place, have a different style of learning, and their self-esteem may be low.

I believe some roles of the instructor should be the transmitter of knowledge, authoritative, expert, direct the learning process, and teach learning through experiences. I plan on working with children who have disabilities in the future and there will be times that I will have to educate adults on how to plan programs for these children and how to interact with them. The instructor should be knowledgeable in the subject matter they are teaching so the learners will be able to comprehend. It is also important that the instructor is sure the learners understand what they are being taught. I believe the instructor should also decide what the needs for learners are and teach about those areas.

I believe problem solving, experience-based education, lifelong learning, learning for its own sake, and traditional knowledge are some concepts of learning for adults. Adults are more likely to understand a concept if they use problem-solving concepts so they can see how something works. By using experience-based education or lifelong learning, adults are more likely able to relate their personal experiences to what they are being taught. Adults also should feel that they are learning for their own sake. I believe adults should want to learn to enhance their knowledge whether it is work related or for personal reasons.

I believe lecture, study groups, cooperative learning, and activity curriculum are methods for adult learning. Some adults are visual learners who can sit through a lecture and comprehend the information presented to them. Study groups are another way adults learn. By having study groups, the adults are able to get together and discuss how they feel about topics. Each of these individuals have different beliefs, therefore, they are all able to discuss why they feel the way they do.

I believe that programs should be evaluated to see if the instructor and learners are receiving the information they need. It is important for programs to be evaluated to see if they are successful and worthwhile. With evaluations, the instructor is able to see where they are lacking and what they need to do to improve the program.