



Professional Ethics of School Administrators

Translated from the Thai Version by Phanu, S.

Suitable for :

- Teachers
- School Administrators
- Educational Administrators
- Educational Supervisors
- Lecturers and Students at the Master's and Doctoral Levels in Educational Administration
- General Public

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Preface

This book, “Professional Ethics of School Administrators”, was written with the objectives of allowing teachers, school administrators, educational administrators, educational supervisors, lecturers and master’s and doctoral students in educational administration, and interested persons in general, to study, learn, and apply it to their educational careers.

This book contains important content for educational professionals, divided into 7 chapters: (1) Philosophical and Religious Concepts, Principles and Methods; (2) Ethical Requirements and Factors; (3) Good Governance and Honesty; (4) Virtues of Professionals as School Administrators; (5) Problems and Solutions Related to Virtues and Ethics; (6) Competencies of School Administrators according to Professional Standards; and (7) Review of Ethical Legal Requirements

Studying about “Professional Ethics of School Administrators” and applying it to the educational profession is considered very important because it will be beneficial to the practice of the educational profession and maintain the dignity of the profession.

The author sincerely hopes that this book will be a source of knowledge or information for understanding ethics in the professional practice of school administrators, which will be beneficial to educational professionals and interested persons in general.

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Chapter

1

Philosophical and Religious Concepts, Principles and Methods

แนวคิด หลักการ และวิธีการ
ทางปรัชญาและศาสนา

1.1 Introduction

Studying concepts, principles, and methods of philosophy and religion is an important tool to enhance ethics for educational administrators who are professionals in education. It will enable educational administrators to perform their duties correctly, appropriately, and to maximize the benefits for students, society, and the country. Therefore, this chapter presents the essential content of 4 issues of concepts, principles, and methods of philosophy and religion: (1) Philosophical concepts, principles, and methods; (2) Religious concepts, principles, and methods; (3) Benefits of studying concepts, principles, and methods of philosophy and religion; and (4) Guidelines for applying concepts, principles, and methods of philosophy and religion. The details are as follows:

1.2 Philosophical concepts, principles and methods

Philosophical concepts, principles, and methods are like a compass that guides us to understand the world and life more deeply, whether in terms of education, work, or even personal life. This section presents the meaning of philosophy, the goals of philosophy, the main branches of philosophy, the importance of philosophy, examples of famous philosophers, important philosophies for school administrators, philosophical methods to strengthen ethics, and the importance of philosophical concepts, principles, and methods. The details are as follows:

1.2.1 Meaning of Philosophy

The word "**philosophy**" comes from Sanskrit, English, and Greek. It is a word that corresponds to the Pali word "**paññā**". The details are as follows:

(1) The word "**philosophy**" comes from the Sanskrit word "**para**" meaning **round, excellent**, and the word "**chāñā**" meaning to know, understand. When the two words are combined, philosophy means **General knowledge, true knowledge, excellent knowledge, knowledge gained through study and thought, the subject of knowledge and truth.**

(2) The word "**philosophy**" comes from the English word "**Philosophy**" which means **love of wisdom**, with roots from two Greek words: **Philos** (loving or dear) which means **love, devotion, interest**, and **Sophia** (wisdom or knowledge) which means **wisdom, academic knowledge**. When the two words are combined, philosophy means **love of wisdom, love of knowledge, love of academics.** (Wikipedia, 2023)

(3) The word "**philosophy**" corresponds to the Pali word "**paññā**" which means **knowledge or wisdom.**

(4) The Royal Institute Dictionary, B.E. 2554, defines philosophy as the subject of knowledge and truth. (Royal Society of Thailand, 2013: 714)

In addition, foreign philosophers have defined philosophy as "**philosophy**" meaning **the study of profound truths and basic principles about existence, knowledge, virtue, and rational thinking**. Philosophy aims to understand the meaning of life and the world through the analysis and discussion of important concepts using reason and principles of criticism (Viney & Tangenberg, 2019).

In summary, philosophy means knowledge and truth, the subject of knowledge and truth, love of wisdom, love of knowledge. Studying philosophy is the study of knowledge and truth, which is the study of basic and general problems about the nature of existence, knowledge, reason, value, mind, language, and others.

From the meaning of philosophy, it can be said that philosophy does not have a fixed answer, but is a search for knowledge, understanding, and

truth through the process of thinking, analyzing, interpreting, and arguing rationally.

1.2.2 Goal of philosophy

(1) Developing analytical thinking: Practicing critical thinking skills, asking questions, analyzing information, and distinguishing facts from opinions.

(2) Seeking knowledge: Searching for knowledge and truth about the world, life, and the universe.

(3) Understanding human nature: Studying human nature, thoughts, feelings, and behavior.

(4) Developing virtue and ethics: Researching principles and guidelines for living with virtue.

(5) Solving problems: Finding solutions to various problems at the individual, social, and global levels.

1.2.3 Main branches of philosophy

Philosophers tend to divide the branches of philosophy into different branches, depending on each person's perspective. However, when considering the overall picture, it will be found that Philosophy is divided into two main types as follows: (Grayling, 2023)

(1) Pure Philosophy: Philosophy that is purely theoretical, has 3 branches: metaphysics, epistemology and logic.

(2) Applied Philosophy: Philosophy that can be applied in everyday life, including ethics, aesthetics, religious philosophy, political philosophy, social philosophy, etc.

As for general scholars, they tend to divide philosophy into the following branches:

1. Metaphysics: studies and researches the nature of reality at the deepest level. It is asking questions and trying to find answers about what lies behind the phenomena we encounter in our daily lives.

2. Epistemology or Theory of Knowledge: Studying the nature of knowledge, beliefs, and experiences.

3. Axiology: Studying values or ideals. There are 3 sub-branches as follows:

3.1 Logic: Studying the principles of reasoning to create conclusions from truth.

3.2 Ethics: Studying moral values, criteria for decision-making, and good actions.

3.3 Aesthetics: Studying the nature of beauty, art, and aesthetic experiences.

1.2.4 Importance of Philosophy

Philosophy is important to human life as follows:

(1) Helping us understand the world and life: Philosophy helps us understand the nature of existence, knowledge, truth, value, and the relationship between humans and the world.

(2) Developing analytical thinking: Philosophy trains critical thinking skills, questions, analyzes data, and distinguishes facts from opinions.

(3) Promoting rational decision-making: Philosophy helps us make rational decisions, considers the consequences, and takes responsibility for the consequences of our actions.

(4) Developing morality and ethics: Philosophy helps us explore principles and guidelines for living virtuously.

(5) Preparing us for challenges: Philosophy helps us prepare for problems, challenges, and changes in life.

1.2.5 Examples of famous philosophers

(1) Socrates

Socrates was an ancient Greek philosopher. His history and works as a foundation for Western philosophy are as follows:

History: Socrates was an ancient Greek philosopher who did not write his own works. But his ideas were recorded through the dialogues in the writings of his important student Plato. Socrates was famous for his Socratic method of teaching, which encouraged students to think and analyze for themselves.

Works: Although he did not have any direct writings, Socrates' ideas about knowledge, goodness, and truth greatly influenced later thinkers,

especially the idea of "knowing oneself", which is an important foundation of Western philosophy.

(2) Plato

Plato, Socrates' student, was an ancient Greek philosopher. His history and works are as follows:

History: Plato was a student of Socrates and one of the most influential philosophers in history.

Works: He founded the world's first educational institution, the Academy in Athens. It was an educational institution that organized a concrete teaching system, focusing on philosophy, especially Plato's ideas about the ideal world and true knowledge, and focused on cultivating new generations of thinkers, philosophers, and scholars, who later played an important role in the development of world knowledge and culture. Plato's important ideas include [the Theory of Forms](#), which states that things we see in the present world are only shadows of what is perfect in an ideal world.

(3) Aristotle

Aristotle, Plato's student, was an ancient Greek philosopher. His history and works are as follows:

History: Aristotle was Plato's student and later became a teacher for the great king Alexander. Aristotle was a philosopher who was knowledgeable in many fields of study, including philosophy, science, and logic.

Works: Aristotle founded the Lyceum, a place for walking and learning about philosophy, science, and other fields of study. It is a center for research, study, and exchange of knowledge, and a place for studying many fields, including philosophy, science, biology, logic, and politics. His ideas about the soul and politics are still influential today.

(4) René Descartes

René Descartes is a French philosopher who initiated modern philosophy. His history and works are as follows:

History: Descartes is a French philosopher and mathematician who is famous for the phrase "I think, therefore I am".

Works: Descartes attempted to create a new system of knowledge by starting from questioning everything and believing that true knowledge must come from reason. His ideas were the beginning of the philosophy of rationalism.

(5) Immanuel Kant

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher, has a history and important works in ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics as follows:

History: Kant is a German philosopher who is famous for trying to reconcile rationalism and empiricism.

Works: Kant introduced the concept of categorical imperatives, moral principles that are considered ethical obligations that are independent of any conditions or consequences that might result from the act. That is, we should not do anything that we would not accept if everyone else did it. For example, if lying is wrong according to categorical imperatives, we must refrain from lying, even though lying might produce good consequences in a particular situation.

(6) John Stuart Mill

John Stuart Mill, an English philosopher, has a history and important works in ethics and political philosophy as follows:

History: Mill was an English philosopher who was both an economist, politician, and social reformer.

Works: Mill supported the principle of utilitarianism, which believed that any action that brings the greatest happiness to the most people is the right action.

1.2.6 Important philosophies for school administrators

1.2.6.1 Philosophy of education

Philosophy of education is like a compass that points the way in education management, allowing school administrators to understand the goals and methods of developing students to be good people, knowledgeable, and able to live happily in society. It also helps school

administrators understand the objectives, duties, and roles of education, including the relationship between teachers, students, and society.

Philosophy of education is not a part of any specific major philosophy, but rather an interdisciplinary science. (Interdisciplinary Field) that combines concepts, principles and methods from various disciplines.

Educational philosophy uses concepts, principles and methods from various disciplines to analyze, interpret, explain and evaluate various problems related to education, such as the following examples:

(1) Aims and Objectives of education: What should education aim for? What should learners learn?

(2) Curriculum and teaching content: What should the curriculum contain? What should be taught?

(3) Teaching and learning methods: What teaching methods should teachers use? How should learners learn?

(4) Measurement and evaluation: How should teachers measure and evaluate learners? What are the indicators of educational success?

(5) Educational ethics: What kind of ethics should teachers have? What kind of ethics should students have?

(6) Educational problems: What kind of problems occur in the education system? How should they be solved?

Examples of application of educational philosophy

Examples of applying different educational philosophies in real life are as follows:

1. Humanism

Focussing on learners as the center: Emphasizing the feelings, needs, and potential of each individual.

Examples of application

(1) Teaching and learning management in which teachers emphasize students' participation in learning, expressing themselves, and exploring their own interests.

(2) Creating a warm, friendly, and safe classroom atmosphere so that learners dare to express their opinions.

(3) Organizing activities that encourage learners to learn from real experiences, such as field trips and project work.

2. Progressivism

Focussing on learning from experience: Believing that learning occurs from action and problem solving.

Examples of application

(1) Project-based learning so that learners learn through hands-on practice.

(2) Using a variety of modern learning media to stimulate learners' interest and learning.

(3) Creating opportunities for learners to work together in groups to practice working with others.

3. Essentialism

Focussing on transferring basic knowledge: Believes that there is important knowledge that everyone should receive.

Example of application

(1) Teaching that emphasizes core subject content, such as mathematics, science, Thai language.

(2) Using of standard textbooks and learning media.

(3) Measurement and evaluation of learning outcomes by focusing on knowledge and understanding of content.

4. Perennialism

Focussing on classics and universal principles: Believing that universal and classic knowledge is important.

Example of application

(1) Teaching knowledge of literature, mathematics, and classical philosophy.

(2) Emphasis on developing analytical thinking skills, problem solving, and decision-making.

(3) Encouraging learners to be creative.

In addition, other educational philosophies, such as Buddhist educational philosophy or creative educational philosophy, can also be applied. However, the consideration of choosing an educational philosophy depends on 3 factors as follows:

(1) *Context*: school, class size, and types of learners.

(2) *Goals*: In what areas do you want to develop learners?

(3) *Resources*: Are there enough teachers, learners, and learning media?

In summary, educational philosophy is a broad science that covers various issues related to education. It focuses on finding knowledge, understanding, and truth about education through the process of analytical thinking and arguing with reason. Applying educational philosophy will help manage education effectively and encourage learners to grow up to be good people, knowledgeable, and happy.

1.2.6.2 Philosophy of Ethics

Philosophy of ethics helps school administrators understand ethical principles, goodness, correctness, justice, and the responsibilities of teachers.

Philosophy of ethics is a branch of philosophy that studies goodness, correctness, morality, virtue, and duty. It tries to answer basic questions about what should be done, what should not be done, what is good, what is right, how should we live?

The main ideas of philosophy of ethics can be divided into 3 main categories as follows: (Sandel, 2010)

1. Normative ethics

Normative ethics is the study of standards or criteria used to decide what is good, what is bad, what is right, what is wrong, focuses on

setting rules, principles, guidelines for decision-making and action. It is divided into 3 main theories as follows:

(1) Consequentialism: It is an ethical theory that emphasizes the results of actions more than the actions themselves. That is, the judgment of whether an action is good or bad will be considered from the good and bad results that occur from that action as a whole.

The important principles of this theory are: **(1) Consequences:** The results of an action are the most important in deciding whether an action is good or bad. **(2) Maximum Benefit:** A good action is an action that brings the most benefits to the majority of people. And **(3) Happiness:** Happiness is something that all humans seek. Therefore, a good action is an action that creates happiness for the majority of people.

For example, lying, even though it is not a good thing, but if you lie to save someone's life, it may be considered a good thing.

(2) Deontology: It is one of the important ethical theories that emphasizes the correctness of the action more than the results of that action. That is, the judgment of whether an action is good or bad will be considered from the duties, responsibilities, rules, or principles that are set as important, without considering the benefits to be received or the happiness that will occur.

The main principles of this theory are: **(1) Duty:** Every human being has duties to perform. These duties may come from religion, law, society, or one's own conscience. **(2) Rule:** Moral rules are fixed and do not change according to the situation. **(3) Intention:** The intention of the action is more important than the result.

For example, killing someone, even though it is done in self-defense and may result in a better outcome, such as saving one's own life, according to the principle of functionalism, killing someone is always wrong because it violates the right of others to live. Or lying, even though lying may result in a better outcome in some situations, such as lying to comfort someone, lying is still wrong because it violates the principle of sincerity.

(3) Virtue Ethics: This is another important theory in ethics that focuses on the **perpetrator** rather than the action itself. That is, the judgment