

Selected Readings in
**Educational
Foundations**

Ummatic Ramifications

Edited By:
Suhailah Hussien



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Chapter 1

DOING PHILOSOPHY IN A 'COMMUNITY'

Wan Mazwati Wan Yusoff

INTRODUCTION

Philosophy can be studied and taught through the historical approach that is a traditional way of reading philosophy whereby learners read history of philosophers and their thoughts; or through doing philosophy which emphasizes on learners' participation in the activity of philosophizing, that is, learners are involved in discussing philosophical issues. The problem with studying philosophy through the historical approach is students may only know the history of philosophy and philosophers' thought on certain philosophical issues and theory of reasoning and logic, but they may not acquire the habit and the methods of philosophical thinking, which are valuable to them in order to make wise judgment on life's most important issues. Teaching philosophy is "the art of not teaching about philosophers, but of making philosophers of the students" (Nelson, 1993). Hinrichs (1945) declared that teaching philosophy through historical approach produces students who are incapable of appreciating the different perspectives of life, incapable of deep and comprehensive