As United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defined, education is a human right for all throughout life and that access must be matched by quality. That’s why education is a continuing process of change. It is a mandate that it must cover all significant aspects for the sake of one’s development. Educators all over the world had restructured the system in order to come up to a kind of education where 21st century skills would be able to integrate. Primary focus was given to the type of curriculum that will be implemented wherein collaborative skill was given much emphasis. Education in the 21st century had undergone several phases so there are also various impacts of this kind of education to teaching and learning.

Problem solving, critical and logical thinking skills, information literacy and global awareness are some of the components involved in the 21st century education. If these are the skills that an individual must learn, his teacher must be equipped enough with lot of strategies on how to teach these. Millennials are called to the 21st century learners who are exposed in the digital world. They are the kind of learners who are relying to the power of technology. The question here is, how come that they will able to apply their knowledge in technology if the teacher himself is not quite knowledgeable about the field? As for instance, it is a difficult task for a 50 year old teacher to be literate in using a computer. Yes, it is possible to learn at that certain age but it takes time. Due to the teacher’s difficulties when it comes in incorporating technology in his teaching, consequently learning will be affected. Educational committee has administered various programs and seminars but these are not enough. 21st century education is somehow a hindrance to the old teachers who are running out of time for these matters.
However, if meaningful learning is the primary target of the 21st century education, then a competent teacher must manifest such characteristics in a way that he can encourage each learner to understand the concept, “Learning how to learn.” This kind of education is really a great system wherein the aim is to exhibit the student’s talents and abilities by incorporating the usage of higher order thinking skills. Here, teachers were forced to embody the needed skills to be qualified to teach 21st century learners. They must see teaching as a tool where each learner can procure the skills to be able to know what they can be and who they can be.

21st century education has also impacts to student’s learning. Let me enumerate them one by one based on my experiences as one of the 21st century teachers. First, learning is experiential. Teachers used certain strategies where the experiences of the learners are the foundation to engage them on the topic which is really great. Mastery and retention are the results of this experiential learning. Next, learning is collaborative. Wherein, teachers administered various activities into group in order to determine their capacity when it comes in working among other students. Actually, this is a great technique because the students were forced to participate and share what they know to come up to a good outcome. They are triggered to think which is indeed helpful in their parts. Then, learning is a problem-solving method. Students were exposed to various problems which are needed to be solved by using logical and critical thinking skills. In this way, students were able to analyze and make right decisions. Lastly, learning is more fun. Incorporated by various interesting things, students will definitely enjoy their stay in the school. And that is the most important principle in education, students must enjoy while learning.
21st Century education can be great. But, it depends upon the efforts that will be exerted.

References:
