What makes a school successful and effective? The answer lies in the hands of the school leaders. Basically, the man made the school and not the other way around. An effective school is the outcome of the efforts made by the effective school leaders and teachers. As James Farr stated that the quality of an organization’s performance cannot exceed the quality of its leadership. This means that success of the school depends largely in the leadership and management of school leaders. Poor leadership will lead to the failure of the school. When a school fails, students will suffer more compared to any other stakeholders.

Being an education leader and manager in this decade is not an easy task especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the rapid development in technology and industries, there are new factors that affect the quality of leadership in education in this modern age. During the last two decades many theories on leadership have been developed (Roll, 2019). These theories are helpful in generating future leaders in education. 21st century education leaders are the new breed of leaders. This is due to the changing needs and demands of the educational system, society, and global standards. The leader should be both effective and efficient to produce results that are of better quality. To do so, modern day education leaders should be both an expert and a good communicator.

Every school manager should be an expert. This requires him/her to enroll and finish graduate studies and to attend relevant managerial trainings. Today it is not enough that the leader has a long history in his job. As time passes, many updates and upgrades in education that happen. Being an expert gives a leader immense power.
Expert power is acquired from the knowledge and skills possessed by a leader (French and Raven, 1959). This power enables a leader to implement plans for the mission and vision to become a reality. It will also enable the leader to make decisions based on existing rules and regulations. If an educational leader is not an expert in the field, the school system may be in shambles. It goes with the saying that you cannot give what you don’t have. 21st century education leaders require expertise in their own field to manage and maintain the educational institution well. Aside from that, being an expert adds credibility and reliability.

An effective education manager does not only communicate by sharing information through several mediums, but also is an effective listener. It is essential that we work to be effective communicators with all stakeholders to do what is best for the school. Good communication allows the leader to gain trust among teachers and other stakeholders. The presence of trust can enhance the school’s efforts in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities. In communication, listening is essential. Education leaders should listen intently to understand current the situation and provide professional feedback (Gilbert, 2004).

References:

