21ST CENTURY LEARNERS REQUIRE 21ST CENTURY TEACHERS

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From time to time, many gadgets and devices are being invented. We cannot deny that these inventions drastically affect the way people live. From the smallest things up to the biggest ones, it is very evident that technology really invaded our world. As a result, inevitable changes occurred in many aspects of our lives. One of these is in the education system. Traditional classrooms cannot escape the alterations when computers and other electronic devices enter its four corners.

Learners of today or what we call the “21st century learners” are digitally native, they were born with technology beside them and live their everyday lives with these tools. They are far different from yesteryears’ students because they can go with the flow of our fast-changing world. They are well aware of what is in or out. Chalk and talk or the traditional classroom set-up are considered out and boring. That is why education system in our country was modified for improvement to meet the needs and demands of these students.

ICT or Information and Communication Technology is one of the tools being used inside the classroom to integrate technology in teaching and learning process. ICT serves as a substitute to traditional chalkboards. With the use of ICT, the teacher can make the discussion be more interactive through internet and computers. Videos and pictures about the topic being discussed can be shown easily to the students as long as the devices are available. In line with that, the retention of the lessons to students’ mind will last longer if they can see and hear what they are learning. As what is being believed in the teaching field, the more senses are involved, the better the learning is. In addition, using students’ own smartphones or tablets, students can take home the lectures and exercises.
Heavy books and lectures are all out because all the information needed about the students’ lessons are one click away.

To determine the effect of ICT in education, many people conducted various researches. Worldwide research has shown that ICT leads to improvement of students’ learning as well as teaching methods. There is a research conducted in Japan made by the National Institute of Multimedia Education which supports the claim that the use of educational technology or ICT in classrooms serves as a critical part on students’ achievement bringing positive results.

If learning is as easy and enjoyable as that, students would find it exciting to attend classes every day. It feels good to hear those things but the question is, are all teachers ready to embrace these changes to meet the needs of 21st century learners? We cannot deny that not all educators are aware with ICT tools. Not everyone of them has enough experience and exposure in using computers and gadgets. If the teachers themselves do not know how to use the ICT tools, it will root to a problem. That is why, it is one of the challenges that teachers need to overcome. To update their knowledge in relation with ICT and cope-up with the enhancements that the DepEd is requiring. To be in with what the students want and need. To know their interests and integrate those interests in technology and learning.

In the present time, integrating ICT in the field of education is a necessity. ICT undeniably plays an integral part in the field of education. Both learners and teachers benefit a lot from this. That is why, teachers must have a sufficient knowledge to execute the lesson using ICT because 21st century learners require 21st century teachers.

References: