A MULTIGRADE TEACHER

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Teacher I

Teaching different grade levels at the same time in classroom is not an easy job. It requires skills and expertise in classroom management, instructional competence, and communication skills. We all know that the main goals of the Multigrade Program in the Philippine Education is to improve the quality of elementary education through the completion of incomplete schools and the organization of multigrade classes in every barangay. The realization of this objectives and the success of this program lie in the hands of the Multigrade Teachers and the full support of the school administrators.

What is a Multigrade Class? It is a class consisting of two or more grades handles by one teacher. It is generally opened in primary school located in distant and sparsely populated areas, where the number of enrollees for each grade does not warrant the opening of a single class.

As we all know, teachers are deeply burdened with a great bulk of paper work. They also experience with conflicts of overlapping schedules of academics, non-academics, extra and co-extracurricular activities. Sometimes, they need to render community services and other commitments. Despite these numerous responsibilities, the multigrade teachers still perform their duties to the best of their abilities and in a most noble way. We cannot deny the fact that there are several problems encountered along the way by the multigrade teachers that affect their performance and attitude. Some of them are the following:

1. Preparation of 16 to 21 lesson plans a day.
2. Provision of multi-level instructional materials in the different learning areas of the two grade levels.
3. Lack of college training and background in handling multigrade classes.
4. Lack of interest and positive attitude of teachers on multigrade teaching.
5. Inadequate number of textbooks, working books handbooks, activities cards, drill cards etc.
6. Inadequate school facilities such as school buildings, chairs, desks, chalkboards, etc.
7. Location, status and condition of the school site.
8. Lack of active parent and community participation and cooperation on school programs and projects.

However, despite of the above-mentioned challenges on multi-grade education, in the recent years, the Department of Education give their best and find their ways to support the needs of multi-grade education in our country they always support the learners, pupils, administrators, and even schools.

But as a teacher we need to be innovative and very welcoming with the new challenges in education. Moreover, we need to have a heart for our learners and provide them quality education.

References: