A VOCATION MORE THAN AN OCCUPATION: A CHALLENGING ROLE OF TEACHERS FROM FAR-FLUNG SCHOOLS IN SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN INNOVATION

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Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world (USAID, 2013). The Department of Education, in its mission to provide quality basic education that is equitably accessible to all, introduced K to 12 which was implemented in all public schools starting 2012-2013. However, as stated by Lee-Chua (2012) for K to 12 to succeed, good teachers are essential. Indeed, one of the most important factors which have to be taken into consideration in the implementation of this new curriculum is the teachers who are the front liners in this new system.

Teachers are not equipped to restore the damage of motors nor technician who implement the educational ideas and approaches of others, but rather a professional can able to think about and look for solution when they face new challenges. In fact, teachers are encouraged to produce new ideas through innovation. However, innovation for almost teachers were overwhelmed and discouraged (Paniagua, 2018). In contrary, change is normal part of the teaching profession and not an extra that only super motivated and skilled teachers do, we can use our challenges to turn it into a motivation to provide an innovation in teaching. In fact, innovation is a significant step to transfer teacher as true designer of learning environment and students can learn when they engage with subject and replace their misconception with new ideas.

Being designated in an isolated community is not an easy task. Aside from being familiarize to the culture and understanding the nature of the community, it is also a challenge for teachers to reach those areas because of the distance, the distance is quite challenging given the fact that it was risky. Furthermore, delivering quality of education...
is more challenging for teachers with an insufficient teaching resources to their school. Luistro (2014) stated that far-flung schools are as much part of the educational system as any public school in the city. But not too much attention gets focused on them. In pushing digital literacy as part of the innovation of the department, lack of computers is one of the challenges that need to be addressed. In fact, according to Mary Anne Jade Mendoza, she said that some teachers in the DepEd teach kids how to use computer using chalkboard.

Indeed, being an elementary teacher, I was assigned and given a task to provide an innovation for the better and changes of an old and traditional approach of teaching. However, teacher from far-flung area is another challenge for me. We all know that not using the modern and trending educational technologies now is just like limiting your learners to see the unseen world of knowledge, ripping the ticket to world tour and breaking the lenses of their telescope to see the outside world. The role of teachers in developing new knowledge and ideas are great importance.

References:


Lee-Chua, Q. N. (2012). Readers speak out on k to 12 Philippine Daily Inquirer.