ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO TEACH SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

by:
Annaliza S. Manalansan
Master Teacher I, Jose C. Payumo Jr. Memorial High School

In research, experts revealed that two out of three high school students in a large survey say they are bored in class in every single day. In the same research, the students revealed that the two subjects that they fear most are Science and Mathematics. They feel anxious whenever they are attending these subjects.

Fear of Science and Math can be attributed to some factors. It may be lack of interest because they do not understand some technical terms and formula, another is the teachers’ teaching style. Most probably, the teacher seems to be authoritative and many times do not simplify or facilitate the lesson. Or may be teachers are still using the traditional styles of chalk and blackboard or the lecture type and questions and answer approach.

In the same study, they recommended the use of activity-based approach or group activities. According to them, by the age of 8-12, students are beginning to enjoy group activities, until such time that they can make their own decisions and they begin to think critically and creatively. Through activity-based strategies, the teacher is providing opportunities for students to use their problem-solving and children are encouraged for critical thinking which is very vital not only for Science and Math but also with other subject areas to be honed up.

The teachers may initiate by asking questions they may use in their group activities which may foster analytical or critical thinking skills. For example, “Why do you think that result happened?” With these ages, children are craving for sense of belongingness, and one way to
achieve this is through group activities wherein they can mingle with other classmates in doing their activities, they may also gain more self-confidence and they can increase their level of performance.

Through this approach, the cognitive development of the learners will be developed easily. Eventually, children will experience fun and enjoyment since learners have always been curious, their imagination and inquiring human mind will always respond to the wonder and awe of Science and Math. Children will now have more time to observe the physical and biological environment carefully then they are beginning to build conceptual models.

At this point, teachers who still resort to boring teaching styles must employ alternative ways to help in carrying out ways to pursue the national curriculum framework.

References:

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