CHARACTERISTICS OF A 21ST CENTURY LEARNER

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Learners are really vital in the classroom setting, without them, teachers will not be able to produce a well-built and competitive young individual in the society. Every year, teachers cater a huge number of learners to mold the capabilities and develop the skills of these learners. To make them globally competitive in all aspects, the Department of Education made an emphasis in terms of teaching the subject matter to the students. They worked and made a modification on the existing curriculum for it to be learner-centered. At this stage, every teacher all over the Philippines ensures that the main focus of the subject matter being taught is the learners, which we them as 21st century learners.

According to Chen (2010), the author of Education Nation: Six Leading Edges of Innovation in our Schools, 21st century learning should not be scandalous. It is simply a strength to define learning using contemporary tools. These 21st century learners are not only possessing intellectual capacity but also they have unique characteristics that will serve as an identity that they are really legitimate 21st century learners. A 21st century learner should be creative and innovative, means, these learners are able to solve problems creatively and implement solutions innovatively in this modern world. They are able to look at the failures and mistakes as opportunities to hone further their innate capabilities, thus, leading them to become productive. In addition, they should be an effective communicator - the capability to communicate efficiently and effectively is a crucial element in building success towards other people.

Twenty first century learners should be able to demonstrate their ideas and views through a series of oral, written and non-verbal venue. Moreover, to be an effective communicator, the learners must be good listeners first, doing such, it will yield a great
impact in the development of communication in the workplace or society. Furthermore, a 21st century learner should also be a lifelong learner, meaning, these learners should be ready enough in adapting the global changes in the society. Globalization has a huge impact in the modern society, if learners are not ready for these changes, they will not become fruitful in the near future. Being adaptive with these changes in the society is the strategic carters for lifelong learning of skills.

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