COMPENSATING THE HARDSHIPS OF TEACHERS WHO ARE TEACHING IN FAR-FLUNG AREAS

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Being a teacher is already challenging and it is becoming tougher if there is a shortage in learning resources for students because they still have to spend more times to think of and prepare materials to assure that the students will still learn despite the insufficient materials provided by the school. This scenario is already given in many public schools in the country but this is not the worst compared to the hardships of teachers who are teaching in far flung areas because remote communities encounter more challenges than others.

According to the research conducted by Ronald Orale and Ailyn Quejada (2018), to date, remote schools in the Philippines still face scarcity of teaching resources and teachers are continuously challenged in delivering quality basic education in the countryside. The school, their students and the community exhibit poverty and many students cannot afford to buy school supplies which they can be used in learning. Some of them also skip meals because they cannot afford to buy food and have to walk kilometers away from their home to school.

As a result, many students are slow-learners and non-readers. Lack of body nutrition and learning resources hinder them to comprehend their lessons, understand better and be fully developed that is why teachers shed a portion of their salaries to buy school supplies for classroom use and give food for their students in order for them not to skip meals. Aside from teaching, they are somehow obliged to provide these basic needs for their students just for them to learn, be motivated and be more focused in their studies.
Nida Grace Barcena (2018) said that despite the situation, teachers in far-flung areas have not ceased from constantly wearing cheerful faces and optimistic outlook for the love of work and to inspire the lives of the children who are patiently waiting for every start of the week for their love and care, and that somehow change their lives through education. It becomes more challenging if the weather is not good because they have to pass through some rivers or even some peaks in the mountain just to arrive at the school to teach the children who are living there.

These are the reasons why the government must give additional benefits and compensation to the teachers in far-flung areas. Monthly or even quarterly incentives will do because aside from offering the portion of their own salaries to buy food and school supplies for students who cannot afford to buy their needs, they are more than challenged because some have to walk some kilometers in muddy and slippery trails and has to wake up very early just to come to school on time.

Moreover, those teachers also sacrifice their spare time for their family because instead they are going home every day after a tiring day of teacher, many of them just chose to stay at the place where they are teaching because the communities are just too far away from their homes. Their original home where their family lives is somehow becoming their vacation house because they just go home during weekends and sometimes just few times a month depending on the number of school duties that are needed to be done.

Teaching is the noblest profession, as the adage says. We cannot deny the fact that this adage is agreeable because aside from nurturing students who are soon to be engineers, teachers, doctors and other professions, teachers are those who go extra miles just to teach students even those who are living in the remote areas. Their hard work and sacrifices cannot be compensated by any of the treasure in this world because for them, the only payback that they can make them consider that their sacrifices are all.
worth is when their students whom they teach are already coming closer to reach their dreams.

References:

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