CONSTRUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF LOW COST MATERIALS SHOULD NOT BE SET ASIDE BY TEACHERS

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Based on the requirements and considering new possibilities, we must constantly and meticulously assess our education curriculum. At present the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum is now on its third year of roll out. And one of the highlights of this curriculum is to reach to all schools about the development of a truly effective ICT Program in the school, one that can respond to the new realities, that modern technology is here to stay. The schools must equip their teachers with new knowledge and new skills that will enable them to teach better in order to cope up with the projected increase in learning competencies.

We cannot deny the fact that nowadays lessons are being facilitated to students through modern technology. As it can be our friend, technology can be also a bane to the teaching-learning situation. While we have exalted the value of technology without fail, we too must recognize its disadvantages especially to our students.

One instructional tool that should not be set aside is the use of low cost but effective instructional materials. They are an important element within the curriculum and are often the most tangible and visible aspect of it. Like the use of multimedia, low cost instructional materials can provide detailed specification of content, even in the absence of the syllabus since they can define goals of the syllabus and the roles of the teachers and the learners within the instructional process.

Modern technology and low cost instructional materials are incomparable. The contributions of multimedia in the field of education is unprecedented, various success in the use of these have been utilized and recorded. However, the contributions, of low cost instructional material cannot be denied. Through this instructional material, the content of a topic can be more carefully selected and organized, delivery of instruction can be more standardized. Instruction can be more interesting, learning becomes more interactive through applying accepted learning theory, length of time required for instruction can be reduced, quality of learning can be improved, the instruction can be provided when and where desired or necessary, learning needs of individuals of individuals can be effectively and efficiently met, the positive attitude of individuals toward what they are learning to the learning process itself can be enhanced and the role of the instructors can be appreciably changed in positive directions. And most importantly, low cost materials can be constructed by the teacher, with the use of authentic and available local materials.

Therefore, use of multimedia is useful if used with precautions, in the same manner that as teachers we must not set aside the use of low cost instructional materials, considering first and foremost the learning that a student can acquire.