DEVELOPING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS

by:
Ador S. Cruz
Alternative Learning System

One of the objectives of the Department of Education’s Mission is “To protect and promote the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, culture-based, and complete basic education where family, community, and other stakeholders are actively engaged and share responsibility for developing life-long learners”.

As teachers, what role should we play to make this happen? Can learning be only achieved in formal education?

Getting a good education, as we know from an early age of schooling, is the reason why our parents send us to learning institution. It is true that after this process, we are close to getting a better job and have a bright future.

On the other, going to formal education is just a part of learning. There are a lot more things and skills to cope up to the reality of life. There is learning that can be acquired automatically after having an experience to something or someone and sometimes after committing a mistake.

However, what the department wants the learners to have as well is the life-long learning. As being defined by Andrea Leyden, lifelong learning preserves an individual’s desire to obtain new knowledge outside of the formal education system. Developing an attitude where you constantly learn is the only way to succeed in the dynamic environment which we live in today. There is so much technology at your fingertips which you can take advantage of to help you learn throughout your life. This means you can follow your passion for languages, improve your craft skills and even develop a mobile app using resources you can find online.
Life-long learners are motivated to learn and develop because they want to: it is a deliberate and voluntary act. But, how can these life-long learners be developed?

Here are some of the ten simple ways to follow to what you must let your learners do:

1. Read widely and often

Let them read even old newspapers with good articles, search for things online they have to know more about, ask them to look through books they found helpful; above all else, give them something to read about which arise their curiosity.

2. Keep smart company

Make sure to keep them in touch with you as their teacher and have them be inspired to learn on their journey.

3. Teach others

By giving them a learning barkada, they will be able to share their knowledge. They don’t have to be teachers to help people learn anyway.

4. Explore real life situations

Giving them ideas on what real life situation is about is a good thing but involving and letting them experience it and learn is an achievement. A step by step of frying an egg can be discussed and taught but learners may forget. And we have to thank Benjamin Franklin in this quote.

5. Start your own project
As teachers, we can encourage our students to plan out their own projects starting with goals and objectives. This will help them to cultivate an idea of how they would be able to follow this process in the future which could be applied to various scenarios.

6. Use a personal learning environment

Understanding how to learn is an invaluable skill. Using personal learning environments can help them adopt proven learning techniques which they can use throughout their journey to discovering new knowledge.

7. Experiment with new ways to learn

Try a variety of ways to learn will help them find the way that sticks. Drawing diagrams, watch documentaries, create mind maps and use music to study are some alternative ways students can approach learning.

8. Join a study group

Create a study groups in their class where they can collaborate and learn from each other’s experiences. A brain storming is one of the examples.

9. Find their interests that encourages learning

Every learner is unique. They have their own intelligences. Be it numeracy, language, bodily kinesthetic and others. Always give them a chance to show and develop their talents at the same time, they are leaning.

10. Make it a priority!

Don’t just keep saying ‘one day’. Make today that day. Whether you’re a teacher, student, professional or other – make learning a priority in your life. If you wait for it to
find you, you will limit the amount of information you know plus your ability to attain this knowledge over the long-term.

References:

https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/lifelong-learning.html
http://www.depedbataan.com/about/mission-and-vision