DIFFERENTIATING INSTRUCTION

by:
Ralph Henry T. Gache
Teacher I, Bataan School of Fisheries

Giving instruction is probably one of the essential things that teachers should do to make students learn. Instruction is one way of stimulating students' interest and delivering it properly facilitates the teaching and learning process.

Teachers have to be careful in deploying instruction. And the questions are: What strategy will teachers have to use to convey instruction? How do they deliver instruction? One effective strategy is the use of differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction, according to Tomlinson (2005), mainly focuses on the variance of students' readiness levels, interests, and learning profiles. Certainly, it is a step of making things easy for the learners. It is a way for teachers to encourage students to learn based on their interests and to develop self-discipline.

English teachers can use differentiated instruction in teaching literary texts such as William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Teachers can give students choices to do. The first option is to let students find the video of the piece and let them watch the content. Second, teachers can ask them to create a script and dramatize the summary of it. And lastly, students can use a mind mapping technique to analyze the different situations in the material and allow them to compare it to the current situations in the country. In this way, students can understand the message of the text.

Science teachers can also use this strategy. An example of it is when teaching how electricity is moving. Teachers can create three groups with different tasks with an end of accomplishing the same competency. A group of students can show how electricity moves by making a simple circuit using a battery, resistor, wire, and light-emitting diode.
as circuit elements. Another group of students can act to show how voltage, current, and resistance work and differ together. And the last group can use a diagram and a step-by-step process to explain how electrons work. This way of differentiating instruction makes all students work in varied activities.

Differentiating instruction cannot only be applied in classroom activities, but also in giving homework. Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao teachers can utilize differentiated instruction in giving assignments that students can work. Teachers can give more than one task and allow learners to choose what they prefer to do. Teachers can ask learners to choose between options such as making a poster to show community solidarity, make a four-stanza poem with the same end as the first task, or find a picture to critique and evaluate its message. Since students have multiple intelligences, assignments can also be differentiated.

Moreover, differentiated instruction can also be seen in giving tasks inside the classroom to develop a sense of responsibility among learners. Teachers can assign a student to erase the writings on the board after every subject. They can give tasks like pulling down the circuit breaker and closing the door every day to some students. They can also assign student or students to maintain cleanliness inside the classroom by throwing the garbage on the garbage area of the school. In this way, all students can possess the value of accountability even.

Instruction is very essential to learning. Teachers must employ instructions because it speaks their ability to impart knowledge. It greatly helps the teachers in the process of delivering the content and learners in the process of comprehending the information.
References: