DIGGING THE PAST AND BRINGING IT TO THE PRESENT: THE ROLE OF HISTORY TEACHER

by:
John Paul C. Solon
Teacher II, Jose C. Payumo Jr. Memorial High School

Today is the product of yesterday – like it or not, history is a vital part of people’s lives. It was then integrated into the curriculum to let the younger generation understand the actions, as well as the consequences of the forefathers. According to Corfield (2008), "good understanding of the condition of being human can be done through understanding the linkages between past and present. That, in a nutshell, is why history matters."

However, students see history as a boring topic; too many dates, names of people and places to memorize. Lord R. Bryce, in the article “Successful History Teacher: Qualities, Qualifications and Characteristics” emphasized that the character of a history teacher is undoubtedly the most significant – the power to realize that the present and the past are tied in understanding today, added by the touch of imagination, as well as vastly large amount of positive knowledge. Further, the history teacher not only deals with the successes and failures of the man in the past but also of the current and recurrent events and happenings of the world of today and so he is of special importance.

A good history teacher must be a good story teller. Once they create a fun and productive learning environment, the class will be as lively as they want it to be. Every school must have a dynamic history teacher who will help the students understand the significance of Industrial Revolution or the cultural impact of Renaissance. He is also the individual who will encourage the new generation of learners to know more about the values and principles that our heroes did for the country as they fought for our freedom. Lastly, a person that will help the learners reminisce every single piece of written and
documented history so that students will not just learn about the past, but to bring out the innate meaning of those past in their studies and their lives. To be an ideal history teacher, one must have a wide understanding on facts and events.

History teachers recreate world events. They use different teaching strategies to teach in more meaningful and creative ways. They tend to re-enact every single detail of the story or events in the minds of students, so they will not only enjoy it but be participative as well. There are times that working with the new generation of learners who may be unruly or unmotivated may be quite challenging and tiring. It is patience that acts as the power of the history teacher, and once the students’ attention has been caught, it is easier for the history teacher to impart information.

A history teacher should also be endowed with creative imagination. This gives power to teacher to present the facts in a live manner to the students. These will lead in more interesting discussions, exchanging of ideas, and understanding of the past thoroughly. It is like having a throwback, as history teachers, bringing the past into the present for further understanding of events that will surely be a bridge to a better future.

References:
