EDUCATIONAL LEADER AND THE PANDEMIC

by:
Arlene M. Matilde
Principal II-ORANI NHS Main

For over a year now, the educational stage has been disrupted and disturbed by the pandemic (Casabal, 2020). During these times of crisis, the usual response of educational leaders is adaptation and survival. The familiar question is, "what is the best way forward?"

Educational leaders must take advantage of the situation and turn the difficulties into opportunities at times like these. How does one leader navigate it? Casabal (2020) offers possible actions.

Be clear in pointing out school priorities. Knowing what to prioritize will help save time, effort, and resources.

Create a core group of "able" people who can make informed decisions through analytics and act decisively and strategically.

Empower each department within the organization to make decisions and respond to the crisis based on facts and data.

Address people in the organization and discuss the "brutal" facts. Every member of the organization must know the situation and be involved in the decision-making.

Finally, the administration must design feedback, consultation, and assessment mechanisms to resolve further issues arising in the process.

During uncertain and challenging times, just like during a pandemic, academic leaders juggle between the provision of accountability and autonomy, equity and
excellence, and the individual and the collective and well-being and workload (Netolicky, 2020). These can be managed well when the leader handles the situation appropriately.

Thus, Casabal (2020) adds that leaders must create an atmosphere of psychological safety among their colleagues and staff amid uncertainties, communicate the situation in the way they best understand, open all communication channels to reach them, and regularly consult them of their needs.

These leadership qualities have been helping ONHS-Main deliver continuing education among its learners. Pandemic or not, these strategies will continue in the leadership practice of this institution and this leader in action.

References: