EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP: A MULTIFACETED ROLE OF BEING A LEADER

by:
Jonathan B. De Guzman
Principal II, Morong Elementary School

It is no doubt that in able to establish a performing school with skilled faculty members and productive school activities, a leader must be effective to handle tough situations and deal with issues that can be encountered. Educational leadership is one of the heavy responsibilities in the society because as an educational leader, you have to shoulder tons of duties, may these be simple or complex. A strong foundation as a leader is highly needed because you are like a captain of the ship and if you are not capable enough to manage and lead, there is a possibility that the ship would sink.

According to Frank Clint, an educational leader serves as a guide and influences other educators in an administrative setting. Leaders in these executive roles work toward finding ways to improve learning and to improve the process of educating students. Since being a leader in education is such a big role, it is important to be sensitive enough to notice and know what areas in school are still calling for attention to be changed or improved. He or she must have eyes and ears to all the things that happen in their school because he or she is liable of everything that happens as long as the education in their school is concerned.

Educational leadership must also aim to help others build harmonious relationships among the teachers, parents and students because striving hard to achieve school’s excellency is not a one-man show. Educational leaders need the cooperation of teachers, parents and students that is why they must have excellent communication skills in able to seek help from others. They are also part of the education community and having collaboration with them will increase the chance to achieve the school’s goals and objectives. Inspiring teachers to bring out their best teaching practices, encouraging parents to monitor their children’s academic performance and supporting
students with their good interests may these be school or classroom activities are very important things to consider.

Further, educational leaders must open their ears for suggestions. They must be good listeners, too, because there might be other things that they unable to see because of heavy loads of work. Through listening to others, it would be easier to discern more concerns and more suggestions to be considered which may eventually lead to the betterment of the school. Educational leaders may have higher position than others, but it does not mean that they will belittle the voice of other school staff because they are often the ones who see the smaller problems or issues in school which can eventually turn worse if neglected.

Aliakabr Behbahani (2011) published a study regarding educational leaders such as principals, and could also be applicable to other positions such as superintendents, administrators and school heads. Behbahani stated that educational leaders should receive trainings “to help in improving job satisfaction for teachers, establishing firm links with parents of students, strengthen PT associations, lower educational loss, improvement in renovation and benefiting from human resources and facilities and ultimately, improve the quality of children and juveniles’ lives.”

However, educational leaders must avoid the mindset of competing with other schools because competing with other schools’ performances would lose the essence of educational leadership. They must always remember that they manage schools not to become the best among any other schools but to provide quality and efficient education for the students so that they would be globally competitive and will be able to cope with the challenges once they are already in the higher education. The main goals are to equip the students with necessary skills needed for the 21st century and to nurture them to be productive members of the society.
The goals of educational leaders must always prioritize the welfare of the students most especially their education. After all, the performance of the students in their school would be one of the major basis if the leadership is effective. The glory and commendation that the school may receive as they achieve excellency are always secondary. What matters most is the excellent service that they could give to the students in able for them to be globally competitive and cope with the changing demands brought by K-12 program, and once achieved, that would be the greatest achievement that schools could ever have.

References:

https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-educational-leadership-concepts-theories.html