EFFECTIVE OR EFFICIENT: A REFLECTION OF TEACHING PRACTICE

by:

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The way teacher imparts knowledge, skills, and values has something to do with effectiveness and efficiency of the practice of teaching. Many wants to become effective and many likes to become efficient. Now the question is: what is the difference between the two terms?

Many believe that effective and efficient are the same, but actually they are different in outcomes. Effective in management, based on the Results-based Performance Management System (RPMS) Manual, means doing the right things, while efficient means doing things right. Teachers are considered effective when the competencies they shared are evidently shown in the actions of the learners. Example, if the teacher teaches how to find the diameter and circumference of a circle and students easily get the answers, then the students show retention of the lesson. Another example, if the teacher teaches students how to manipulate basic hand tools and he sees students using the appropriate type of screwdriver in loosening the screws of an electric fan and properly used pliers in cutting different sizes of wires, then it shows effectiveness of an instruction because students are able to apply the learnings in real life situation.

Teachers are effective when they touch the life of the learners. Touching the life of the learners is a manifestation of an effective teaching practice. How will it happen? Teachers may integrate values in every lesson as much as possible. If the teacher motivates students to continue studying and finish college education and stimulates them to help their parents, show that the teacher is effective. Another way is by inspiring
students to dream for their own future, to make a plan, to strive for goodness, and to put into reality the courses of actions they planned displays effectiveness of teaching.

On the other hand, efficient teachers are the ones that make sure that all of their duties and responsibilities are executed whether it generates learning or not to the learners. Efficient teachers are those who can submit the documents and the needed data of the learners on time for reporting and record purposes. They are the teachers who can fulfill their duties as a coordinator of an area or a chairman of a program and submit a well-prepared accomplishment report.

Similarly, efficient teachers are those who teach without considering if the learners will hold knowledge or not. They are just delivering the lessons to meet the daily lesson plan. Their goal is to finish the competencies set for a quarter to ensure that all questions from the unified test will correspond to their teaching. They are the people who can easily check the written and performance tasks of the learners in order to compute the grades before the submission of the grading sheet.

Efficient teachers are the ones who can monitor the performance of the learners. They make sure that students' records are updated. They inform parents on the progress of the learners through conducting conference with the parents once in every grading period. They take note of the good habits and unbecoming attitudes of the students inside the class through keeping anecdotal records. They even conduct conference with the students.

These are some of the qualities of effective teachers as well as the characteristics of efficient teachers. With this, are you an effective teacher? Can you consider yourself as an efficient one? Or do you see yourself as effective and efficient as well?
Teachers may differ in the practice of teaching. Others are efficient, while some are effective. There is nothing wrong of being efficient or being effective. Still, the most important thing to do is to give the utmost effort in teaching students to improve students’ performance.

Reference: