FACILITATOR OF LEARNING: ROLE OF A REAL EDUCATOR

by:
Jeffrey V. David
Head Teacher III, Saba Elementary School

I gave it all! I did my best but it was not good enough for my pupils to remember the things that I taught to them. These are some of the common lines that a novice teacher says after a day’s class. It may sound frustrating but it’s real. Teachers teach their pupils with all their strengths and knowledge. They give all the information that their pupils need but in the end their pupils still fail in their examinations. Are these kids having poor mental capacity or it’s just merely a teacher factor? Whatever it may be? Teachers should not stop in discovering techniques and strategies on how they can make their pupils learn.

Most of the time, teachers say that they are so tired discussing their topics thinking that they are so good talking all throughout the day but the truth is, they are not. In the minds of great philosophers, it is a belief that teachers should act as a guide from the side and not a sage on the stage. At school, children should be the stars of the class and not the teacher. They should be the one to talk and discuss in the class because they are the ones who are being developed into better learners. Teachers should act as facilitators of learning and not just dispensers of information. The teacher being a facilitator of learning is beneficial both to teachers and pupils alike. As to teachers, they will not easily get tired because they are not the ones who will talk and perform all the time. They will only give opportunities to their students learning through varied meaningful activities. Their duty is to only guide their students during the activities. (Osman, 2015)

On the other hand, pupils are the ones who will perform all the activities carefully prepared by the teachers. They will be the ones to discover their own learning through discovery approach. It is said that once the child discovers his own learning, learning
lasts forever. It will be an integral part of his schema and will stay there. Moreover, if the teacher acts a facilitator of learning, the children will be given more chances to use most of their senses. In this case, the more senses that a child uses in the learning process, the more chances learning will take place.

Indeed, teaching is not simply standing in front of the class and telling all the things that a teacher knows. It is not only presenting the lesson and giving information needed. It is not only writing on the board and asking the children to copy. It is not only giving formative tests to know if the objectives of the lesson have been achieved or not. It is more than those things. Teachers themselves should serve as an instrument that will give opportunities to students to learn and discover new things. They should develop individuals to become well-rounded life-long learners and productive members of the society. So teachers, from now on stop teaching and start facilitating. That’s the role of a real teacher – a facilitator of learning.

Reference: