GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: ALSO A SCHOOL LEADER IN HER OWN RIGHTS

by:
Margie P. Diwa
Teacher III, San Ramon Elementary School

There have been many significant changes in the roles of a school Guidance Counsellors’ nowadays, which have changed rapidly and significantly in response to societal trends. This has resulted in varying misunderstandings and conceptions of their roles. Many researches describe the emergence of school counselling as a profession. In various research findings it was revealed that they are also considered as school leaders based on the nature and significance of the description of their work.

School counselling emerged, and continued to evolve, in response to social, educational, political and economic trends. Even during periods in which societal factors have remained relatively constant, the work of school counsellor is often characterized by variety and challenges. Consequently, school counsellors have often been regarded as marginalized in schools. Further, despite training in child development and multiculturalism, school counsellors are often overlooked as leaders in school communities. Research on schools has suggested that leadership is not the sole purview of the school principal; other professionals play vital roles in leading instructional innovation in teaching-learning process. The counsellors, counselling supervisors, counsellor educators, principals, teachers, and other school staff may be synonymous in saying about the leadership capacity inherent in school counsellors by virtue of their training, theoretical orientation, and mission.

Guidance Counsellors are now considered as equally holding leadership roles, compared to other school leaders. Furthermore, the guidance counsellors with their efficacy have purposeful partnerships with principals. Recommendations may be
accorded for the ways in which school counsellors can hone important leadership skills, particularly through professional development (e.g. in-services, distance learning, continuing education courses. How these efforts might promote student achievement, empower stakeholders, and improve school culture is a significant role being performed by a school guidance counsellor.

References:

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