HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN IMPROVE COMMUNICATION OF TEACHERS TO THEIR STUDENTS’ PARENTS

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In the Philippines, though there are some sort of paper-less policy, the use of paper cannot yet be outwitted. Most of the systems provided to assist a parent in understanding the dynamics of grading system and knowing the progress of his or her child are recorded in paper. Most of the activities and projects done by the students were done in paper. Meetings were held every quarterly to assess individual progress and grades were written in paper. The list goes on and on. But until then, the parents have no mean or way to monitor his or her child’s daily activities in school only when the parent went to ask the teacher about it in person. Unfortunately such a move would eat a lot of time in the part of the parent. So what may be a solution?

In today’s educational system, the students are graded based on three categories – their written works, performance task, and the final examination. Basically, individual grades or remarks can be recorded at ease as the Department of Education has given a formatted copy of grading system. On the part of the teacher, the students are well-monitored; but on the part of the parent, it has not been so. These records were handed in the school and special matters arouse thereby in the need of verification, these were summoned from their shelves.

Such old-fashioned system is somewhat hard earned. Fedena.com (2017) remarks that school would organize a meeting between parents and teachers to discuss a child’s performance and ways to improve it. Due to time constraints, the interaction is cut short and the message is not fully conveyed. The meeting would usually comprise of a discussion of a student’s progress report which would consume most of the time, and the
remaining time went in addressing the niceties and other formalities. Sometimes, most parents are unable to attend the meetings due to their prior engagements.”

On the same hand, positive relationship between the teacher and the parents benefits the school. The parents knew that the school has superb telecommunication system that they do not have to worry about the security of their children. As given, parents are able to know if their children are doing good or they need to do something about their children. The report is not just given in a quarterly basis, but if there is an ICT system, then the parents are able to monitor their children even if they are at work. The American Federation of Teachers (2018) says that “good two-way communication between families and schools is necessary for your students' success. Not surprisingly, research shows that the more parents and teachers share relevant information with each other about a student, the better equipped both will be to help that student achieve academically.”

The same problem happens in many countries. Whereas, the school would organize a meeting for the Parent and Teacher Association where parents or guardians should attend because the Report Cards would be deliberated in front of the parents. The PTA proceedings are clarified in the DO 54, s. 2009 - Revised Guidelines Governing Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs) at the School Level (Department of Education, 2009). In these meetings, some discretions were revealed and to the amazement of the parents, they are able to know the actions of their children in the school. Some students fail to meet the standards of the school and others “cut” their classes without the knowledge of their parents. Until then, nothing is known whether their children attend school, cut school, or fail. Yet, it’s too late when the problem is already done.

In few countries like America, these problems are overcome through a communication system which connects the parents and the teachers’ record directly. For example, there is a certain app called Bloomz. According to their website, the teacher should have a connection with the parents and vice versa. Thus, to connect, coordinate,
and communicate are necessary (Bloomz.net, 2018). The parents can access the record in just a few clicks as easy as surfing the internet. In that way, the parent can monitor their children even in a daily basis - their attendance, their grades, and their teachers’ remarks. Even before a problem happens, the parents can already pull some reasons why his or her child’s grade flunked. Teachers have to be critical with their records and in the course of time, when these records are needed, parents have the right to look for these. It is proper that a teacher has a constant communication with their students’ parents especially when there is something to be concerned of. And the parents have to be aware of these things too so to make disciplinary actions that a teacher cannot do even if they were seconded as ‘parents’ of the child in the school. Thus, the teachers and the parents are directly involved in the life of a child. They are the right and left hands that tend to the needs of the child. That involvement is a unique relationship that is created through many years of care and wisdom.

In our country, teachers are considered the “second parents” and because of that it is most appropriate for the teachers to connect with the child’s parents for remarks and valuable feedback. Technology is an ideal way to do it as done in other countries today. One day, our country will be able to develop a software that will connect the teachers to the parents and vice versa in as easy as surfing the net.

References:

