ICT INTEGRATION: ALLOWING MAXIMUM LEARNING THROUGH ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

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Today’s generation is already living in a digital world and thousand daily operations and transactions are controlled by technology. It makes our daily living easier and more convenient because with technology, we will encounter fewer hassles and inconveniences. Since technology already invaded many institutions in the country, the education sectors already adapted the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in able to integrate and maximize learning among the students. This is the reason why the Department of Education (DepEd) aims to digitalize the Philippines’ education sector.

During the Education Summit last December 2017, DepEd’s Bureau of Curriculum Development Director Joyce DR. Andaya said in her speech that the first step in enhancing the quality education in the Philippines is to close the technological gaps in ICT. She also noted that the teachers should adapt to technological advances in education in order to allow maximum learning with the use of modern gadgets. In addition to what she has said, she also stated that “for the framework to work, a transformational and enabling environment must be in place.”

In the fast changing world, it is important to be adaptive most especially in the innovation brought by the digital world. Since education sectors play a crucial role in the development of young people in able for them to be productive and well-rounded members of the community, they have to boost ICT in schools. The integration of ICT in the teaching and learning process prepare the learners in their future careers wherein they can be technologically and globally competitive which enable them to have a significant contribution to the society.
There are several advantages of using ICT in the classroom. Since many students nowadays are equipped in the use of technology and most of them are engaged and interested in it, it would be easier for them to adapt in a modern classroom setting which makes teaching and learning process more effective. According to Pano Savvidis (2016), ICT improves knowledge retention among the students because technology encourages active participation in the classroom and students best learn if they are interested and engaged in the things they are studying. The teacher just need to determine what technological tools that work best for the students.

Further, ICT integration in the classroom does not benefit the students alone but the teachers as well because with the countless online resources, it would be easier for the teachers to access a lot of information that they can teach or include in their discussion. With the aid of technology, teachers are also able to produce more creative presentations for the students which enable them to engage more in learning. Technology also fill the limitations of the traditional classroom setting and the traditional practices by the teachers.

Due to the innovation in the education sector brought by the technology, DepEd issued policies and guidelines providing the employees technology support on how to use ICT. According to Adrian M. Reodique (2017), “DepEd also used social media to ensure that the orders, memos and policy declarations reach all the schools in the Philippines”. Those teachers who are not that equipped with the use of technology are being considered that is why the policies and guidelines aim to educate them in coping with the modern classroom setting.

Despite the fast changing world and the great advantages brought by innovative education, the teachers, administrators and DepEd must bear in mind that we are still the ones who are in control of the technology and we should never let technological advancements control us. ICT integration in education must not bring setbacks for those who are not familiar in the use of technology but rather should bring them the
knowledge that they need in order for them to be skilled workers that can make the country be filled with workforce that would bring a great transformation in our society.

References:


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