IMPACT AND ROLES OF NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL DURING GLOBAL PANDEMIC

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The current situation under the threat of a global pandemic as a result an easily spreading virus, the Covid 19, is causing a series of massive and abrupt transformation in different realms of social, political, and economical aspects of every part of the world. Different government all over the globe have launched political and economic emergency policies and initiative that would stop or at least, lessen the virus from spreading.

In the education sector, the government mandated the suspension of face to face classes, force closure of educational centers and institutions which lead the students to learn on-screen and teachers had to do their instructions digitally. However, given these facts, closure of schools from learners and suspension of classes does not mean the school operations to stop. There are still personnel from the Department of Education who, although scared of the virus, still do come to office and work. These are the non-teaching personnel who tirelessly give so much effort but sometimes is the least to be recognized.

Indeed, the guidance counselors, librarians, school nurses, administrative staff, and other non-teaching school employees who provide essential services and support to students as well as teachers who are particularly of high risk of getting the virus yet do their duties and responsibilities to their respective jobs. These personnel who works silently for the education sector has a huge impact in the department for bringing quality education to students amidst the global pandemic.

In relation to this, the success of every school and other educational institution is greatly affected by those non-teaching personnel who serves as the backbone of the school. For an instance, administrative staff who are in-charge of the processing of cash advances for
granting, liquidation of cash advances, payment of bills and processing of payroll and reimbursement play an important role especially for teachers and for the entire school itself. These personnel are also responsible for the procurement school equipment and materials especially those covid-19 related medical supplies that would be beneficial not only for the teachers and students but the entire school community in promoting and providing a safe and covid-free environment.

Not only that, since these non-teaching personnel report to school 3 to 5 times a week depending on the urgency of things they have to do, especially the administrative staff, they also become an extension of teachers to school. Because they are reporting to school and physically present, they also contributed a lot on the printing of modules to be given to students who are on modular type of learning delivery modality. These administrative staff, although consumed with their own duties and responsibilities, still attend to some matters that are out of their obligation and willingly give teachers an extra hand of doing their job to ensure that quality education is given to every learner.

Despite all these things, we have to be reminded that these staff are human too, they may feel exhausted, unsafe whenever they come to work they might be having feeling fear, grief, and high level of stress and anxiety as the virus spread. Aside from the physical health that is given emphasis during these times, equally important is the mental health of an individual. We should find a balance between these two as this defines our well-being and welfare as individual.

In conclusion, the situation we are facing now has no clear end yet. As rational beings, we should adapt to the sudden and unexpected circumstances and make sure that everyone’s health and well-being are on the top priority of everyone. We cannot eliminate the virus just yet, but we can do something to prevent it from spreading. Fighting against Covid-19 is a shared responsibility that when you protect yourself you are also protecting your family and the entire community.
Reference:

