INNOVATE TO ELEVATE

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We often say that learning without reflection is a waste, and reflection without learning is dangerous. As facilitators of learning, having personal reflections daily is truly necessary for us to improve ourselves professionally and be able to address special problems in education. Thus, special problems require special solutions, and one way to do it is through INNOVATION. We have heard the word Innovations so many times, but more than a word, innovations can change the world. These open doors and windows of opportunities to learn the latest trends in addressing special problems not just in education but also in other institutions. Over the years, it is truly amazing to think that there have been countless of technological innovations and advancements. It is truly astounding how those people thought and processed those innovations that we enjoyed nowadays. Their creative thinking really contributed a lot especially in today’s generations. I couldn’t imagine life without innovations.

Innovation is a 10-letter word which starts with a capital letter “I”, this means that innovative thinking must start with ourselves. We can start doing innovations using our creative thinking to help address special problems in the institutions where we have been. We were now living in a digital era, where changes happen every second. In education, there are many innovations discovered and created to uplift the quality of education. These innovations were the fruits of hard works and perseverance of innovative and creative people. There is no single definition of innovation in education. But one thing is certain, innovation has a very important impact in education. This will encourage and inspire every teacher, and a learner to explore, research, and use all the tools to uncover
something new. It requires a different way of looking at problems and solving them creatively.

Furthermore, in order to create innovations that can be used to address some special problems in the schools or in the classrooms, the following points or steps must be considered.

1. MIND SETTING – Planning and crafting an innovation is never easy, it requires proper mind setting to come up with a better innovation. Teachers must be prepared mentally and physically while crafting an innovation. This will help the teachers to be goal-oriented having a positive disposition while under stress and pressure.

2. SELF-REFLECTION – Every educator can use reflective teaching as a way to analyze and evaluate their own teaching practices so they can focus on what works and make some improvements on the practices that do not work well. Daily reflection is necessary to determine the things that need improvement for the better. After having reflections, teachers may now plan for innovations to help address problems.

3. COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS - Two heads are better than one, moreover, more heads are best. Collaborate with other teachers, school administrators, or other reliable individuals regarding the identified problems that need to address through applying an innovation. Their ideas and thoughts might be helpful to create better innovations. Consult them about your plan, and listen as they share their suggestions and recommendations.

4. MAKE A CLEAR ACTION PLAN – Once the problem or issue is identified by the teacher, he/she must create an action plan that will serve as a guide in doing innovation. The action plan must contain the following; Problem to be address, innovation to be used, objective of the innovation, processes or strategies on how
to apply the innovation, resources, and the projected outcomes after applying the innovation.

5. BE CREATIVE AND RESOURCEFUL – Make your innovation precise, simple and creative. Think an innovation that will truly address the problem. Make it creative so that it may capture the interests of the students/pupils. You may also visit the internet that will serve as your references, you may adopt some ideas and make some modifications.

References:
www.forbes.com.ph