INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP: KEY TO IMPROVE PUPILS’ LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Instructional leadership is a very important skill a school head and a teacher must have. This skill plays a great role in the learning outcome of learners. Each learner possesses unique learning styles and level of intelligence, that is why teachers must always ready to plan, prepare and utilize instructional materials fitted to his/her pupils. The level of learning in the classroom is decided by the ability of the teacher to present the lesson using varied visual aids and teaching strategies taking into consideration the multiple intelligences of the learners.

Due to rapidly changing society and kind of learners, the instructional leadership of school heads as well as teachers is being challenged. The school head’s role in the teaching-learning system is to make sure that all teachers are equipped with latest teaching strategies and pedagogies. They also check the availability of instructional materials in the classroom. Normally these two factors are done by the school heads during classroom observations. Moreover, school heads must focus on teaching and learning, especially in terms of measurable learners’ progress.

The school head is not only an administrator, but a leader who is responsible in bringing about empowerment of teachers to ensure learning and improve performance level of the learners. Despite the demand of administrative work, he/she supervises classroom instruction, attends to personal and professional growth of teachers and assesses teachers’ and pupils’ performance.

Inside the classroom, the teachers are instructional managers. They are tasked to prepare IM’s. It begins from the preparation of their lesson plans/DLL’s up to
developing visual aids and deciding what strategy will be used to present the lesson. A teacher who is able to plan for his/her instruction is expected to deliver the lesson properly and will get a high percentage of participation among the class. Therefore, there is a greater chance of learning. On the other hand, a teacher who comes to school unprepared because he/she was not able to prepare lesson plan and instructional materials is expected to achieve low learning outcomes. This is the kind teacher who needs technical assistance from the school heads.

The use of instructional materials is the key in achieving the goals and objectives of the teacher. The availability and adequacy of IMs assist a lot in improving pupil's participation as learners are exposed to the real world of learning and enables them in understanding and retention of information as what is seen is more remembered than what is heard. Aside from this, the teaching skill of the teacher is also a factor.

As instructional leaders, it is very important for teachers and school heads to identify what are the needs of the learners. They must work hand in hand to deliver quality instruction to the learners. The Department of Education has already realized the importance of instructional leadership that is why the National Educators Academy of the Philippines conducted a program called School Heads Development Program in which instructional leadership is included as one of the domains.

References:

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