IS THERE SUCH THING AS “THE MOST EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGY IN MATHEMATICS”?

by:
Joana Marie S. Pineda
Teacher I, Bonifacio Camacho National High School

Through the ages, there has been a huge transformation in the delivery of educational learning inside the classroom through various teaching strategies. Different teaching strategies are essential factors for effective student learning. These refer to methods used by teachers to help students achieve the competencies in a learning area. Strategies in teaching may vary according to the learning style and need of the student. In Mathematics, some teaching strategies include Lecture-Discussion method, and Cooperative and Collaborative learning. Moreover, effective strategies require the use of instructional materials. The use of instructional materials stimulates students’ involvement in discussions, and it serves as an aid to achieve the learning competencies efficiently. There is a rich array of learning materials and resources used by various teachers to cater learners of different levels and diverse background. The wide selection includes textbooks in print and digital format, flashcards, posters, games, websites, online courses, activities, graphics, slides, models, manipulatives, videos, television, mock-ups, magazines, periodicals, CDs and DVDs and many more.

Despite these various teaching strategies and wide range of learning materials, Mathematics education continuously face challenges in today’s world. Based on the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 1999 and 2003, Philippines’ performance in Grade 8 Mathematics showed significant result but still ranked below the international average.

Hence, using teaching strategies and instructional materials does not imply that all students will attain proficient level of competency. In this case, remediation is needed
to provide intervention to those students who are not able to master the skill. In the Grade 7 curriculum, some least mastered skills include lessons regarding algebra especially on problem solving.

One remediation method used by teachers is the use of Strategic Intervention Material (SIM). SIM is an instructional material that focuses on the least mastered skills of the students. Many researchers conclude that using SIM, especially in Mathematics, is an effective tool for remediation. The use of SIM as an instructional material in classroom-based instruction may be beneficial.

Teachers are always in search of the most effective teaching strategy in Mathematics. But there is no single best or most effective strategy to use in teaching Mathematics. Each strategy or pedagogy is applied depending on the learner’s abilities and preferences. What is more important is that Mathematics teachers know how create purposeful teaching learning for students for better retention and understanding of concepts.

References:

