IS WORK FROM HOME HOMEY?

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“Teachers are lucky, they get to enjoy their full salaries, while doing lesser job loads – especially since all they do is work from home.” This may be one of the common ideas of hate posts that teachers received when the School Year 2020-2021 was launched.

A lot, especially those who are not oriented nor involved in the education sector, have been assuming and claiming that teachers are cruising the school year while enjoying the comforts of their home, but that is not truly the case.

The alternative work arrangement is one of the new policies implemented by the Department of Education for the continuation of the new normal in education. It gave an opportunity for DepEd employees to accomplish their works, at the safe boundaries of their homes, while being precautious and following the set standards of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).

The said arrangement may sound ideal and convenient for some, but that is not always the case.

Ward (2019) conducted a survey that aimed to unveil the different emotions of employees toward work from home, and the following are some of the disadvantages that she discovered: (a) conflict between work-life and family life, (b) difficulty in concentrating at working, (c) working at home lessens motivation to work, (d) work interruptions, (e) lack of equipment needed for work, (f) the presence of household noise, (e) access to needed documents, (f) ergonomic issues.
The discovery of Ward reveals that even though there are advantages, working from home embodies disadvantages as well.

Teachers are not exemptions to such drawbacks. There are a great number of social media posts that reflect how challenging working from home is for the educational sector. Aside from the aforementioned disadvantages, one difficulty surfacing is the seemingly taxing workload and lack of health breaks as teachers tend to forget the time when working in their households.

Another theme is the evident difficulty in attaining stable internet connection. Revita (2020) published an article in Sunstar Davao that shared a picture of teachers who were situated beside a road while trying to attend a webinar due to the reason that that is the only spot where internet connection gets stable. This article had caused an uproar and different opinions. There are some testimonials which emphasized that a lot of teachers are experiencing the same scenario and are challenged by this shortcoming.

The lists of difficulties and challenges concerning WFH and the new normal grow long and long, but the requirements of the job are not going short.

Teachers are still accomplishing the same job description, even trickier with the challenges of the pandemic. There may be a lot of disadvantages, and blind guessing on the best practices, but the Department of Education is exerting its effort in pushing through the school year, as well as its employees.

Suddenly converting one’s home into a workplace is not an easy task, but work from home and alternative work arrangements are essential ways to ensure that education will conquer the pandemic.

Work from home may be or may not be homey, but education will surely be provided while trying to ensure its best possible quality.

References: