LESSON PLANS IN THE MILLENNIAL TIMES

by:
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With the emergence of the latest breakthroughs and scientific advances; of modernized facilities, materials and equipment; and amidst the technical and technological revolution all over the globe, education still plays a vital part in human development.

Despite the fact that there have been inventions which have made education - teaching and learning- more digital and electronic, still there is a great need for teachers and facilitators of learning.

As teachers, we have all been equipped with the knowledge of the different learning areas during our baccalaureate years. We have also been trained on the use of many different teaching strategies and techniques to make our teaching effective and long-lasting. We have been provided with skills in the preparation of various instructional materials and audio-visuals to aid our teaching. We have been armed with various philosophies and theories to help cope with our learners, our parents and the whole community we serve.

One thing that relates so much with being a teacher is the lesson plan – where we put all theories and philosophies, all technology and strategies to work as one in order to develop the learning objectives we need to accomplish for the day. The lesson plan is our hammer if we were a carpenter; our stethoscope if we were a doctor, our blue print if we were an engineer and our calculator if we were an accountant. No matter how good, intelligent and knowledgeable we may be – a lesson plan is still indispensable.

In this millennial era, the preparation and accomplishment of lesson plans have also been made modern and easy. There are now easy-to-do- downloadable lesson plans – whether daily lesson log (DLL) or daily lesson plan (DLP). Electronic and downloadable DLL’s and DLP’s are accepted so as to make the teachers’ workload lighter and easier.

Gone were the days when a teacher had to prepare a lesson plan from scratch – with only the Minimum Learning Competencies (MLC) or the Elementary Learning Continuum (ELC), a teacher’s manual and a textbook per subject area. Everything in the lesson plan would have to conceived by the teacher – with only the help of his/her wildest imagination and overflowing creativity.
However, despite the fact that lesson plans have been made easier with the advent of technology and internet, it seems that lesson plans these days have become one of the most neglected responsibilities of the teacher.

Good that DLL’s and DLP’s are readily available and downloadable but many teachers seem to have forgotten how to localize their lesson for their class. They have seemed to have neglected how to customize the plan according to the needs of the learners – in order to address weaknesses. Some teachers may have overlooked using a downloaded DLL/DLP prepared by another teacher for his/her own class but when he/she gives the lesson plan for his/her school head to check, the name and school of the original author of the DLL/DLP was not even edited. The teacher who copied the DLL by downloading it did not even bother to edit the plan for “delicadeza” purposes, not to mention the question on intellectual property rights.

As teachers, let us not forget that the lesson plan is the meat and bone of our actual teaching chore. The DLL or DLP serves are our roadmap so we can get to our destination – lifelong learning. It is our compass that directs us to where we are heading to achieve our objectives. It is our thermometer to gauge not the temperature but the performance of our learners during the teaching and learning activities.

Needless to say, despite the modern times and industrial revolution, we still need our lesson plans – to lead us to where we are going.

Moreover, DepEd Order 42, s. 2016 stipulates that “the DLL or DLP provides teachers with an opportunity for reflection on what the learners need to learn, how learners learn and how best to facilitate the learning process.”

The Department of Education only desires to develop the 21st century learners – who are critical thinkers, great problem-solvers with leadership, flexibility and initiative among others.

As teachers, we always have to remind ourselves every now and then, that the lesson plan is still an integral part of our teaching even in these millennial times.

References:

DepEd Order 42, s. 2016 – POLICY GUIDELINES ON DAILY LESSON PREPARATION FOR THE K TO 12 BASIC EDUCATION