MASTER TEACHERS AS PILOTS FOR EDUCATION REFORM

by:
Robert S. Rana
Sisiman Elementary School

Being in educational field necessitates continuous learning and never-ending studying. Just because one has a degree in Education and passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers does mean that they are already geared enough to conquer more complex and more challenging conflicts in this field. Even veteran teachers still struggle with the daily basis of conflicts in the classroom and at the school as a whole. Due to the ever-changing trends in education, every teacher must upgrade the knowledge that they have and one of the ways to improve themselves in their field is to have a master’s degree in education. It is another level that every teacher must be completed in able to have wider knowledge and to acquire new educational innovations.

According to Wilma Mc.Clean (2009), “a master teacher should serve as an advisor that could help towards the development of the educational institution they are serving.” Master teachers act not only as teachers inside the classroom but also as instructional leaders to their co-teachers because they are the ones who already gained a lot of new ideas and methods in teaching practices through studying for a master’s degree. Because they have an edge to those teachers who have not taken their master’s degree yet, their responsibility is to echo what they have learned so that all of the teachers in their schools will be equipped with necessary information that they need in teaching.

Master teachers may also expand their expertise beyond their classrooms as they may also serve as mentors or coaches to the new teachers through small group discussions, symposiums, peer coaching and even being an observer during classroom observations. Through these ways, master teachers can promote excellent teaching.
because they are sharing what they have gained. Sharing those ideas also empower other faculty members because they can adopt the teaching strategies and techniques suggested by master teachers. They may also give feedbacks to their co-teachers regarding the things that need some improvements. Because of these responsibilities of a master teacher, they can be considered as teacher leaders.

Hairon Salleh (2016) stated in his study that teacher leadership has grown in currency within educational contexts that are becoming more complex and demanding. Teacher leadership has thus become an offshoot to the growing need for distributed leadership. He also added that teacher leaders are well positioned to influence fellow teachers to impact on instructional improvements and innovations. Meaning to say, teacher leaders also play a very important role in disseminating information regarding the new updates in education, modern techniques and strategies in teaching and ways on how to deal with the 21st century learners. Being a master teacher comes with a greater responsibility in educational field.

They also contribute a lot in providing quality education because they can apply the best teaching practices on their classes wherein their students can learn better because they know what to do and how to adjust in different classroom situations. They have also the expertise to handle diverse learners and how to deal with students with behavioral and disciplinary problems. Aside from being promising teachers inside the classroom, they are also mentors to their co-teachers and due to the unselfishness of sharing all they have learned and all the things they know, faculty members in their school will become competent and qualified enough to be considered as great teachers. Through this continuous sharing of ideas, it results to a greater chance to provide quality education for the students.

Further, master teachers may consider doing some education research in able to address and find solution to existing dilemmas regarding classroom management, teaching practices, difficulties encountered by the students and other problems not only
inside the classroom but at the school as well. They can be part of the solution if they produce researches because they will be able to determine more problems or areas that need improvement and by doing so, excellence in education could be achieved because more problems would be solved. This action can also influence their co-teachers to imitate what they are doing. Otherwise, they can guide other teacher and they can serve as mentors in their researches.

Master teachers must be selfless in sharing what they have for the sake of quality teaching and for the sake of the students who rely on them. They must not compete with their co-teachers and must not keep the new methods and innovations that they have just because they do not want to be surpassed by other teachers. They must always remember that teaching is not a competition. Instead of pulling down each other, what they must do is to empower each other for the sake of the students and for the betterment of the community. The essence of being a teacher is not being above by others, but on how he or she was driven by her passion to touch lives of his or her students who rely their future on them.

References:
