The recent pandemic has greatly affected the whole world. For us in the Academe sector, we have been struck by such and we are caught unprepared. Up to this moment, many educators would agree to me that even if a year has already passed, we still do not know concretely how to deal this pandemic in terms of our profession as educators.

Back when I was still studying the 18-unit Professional Education Course, which is prescribed by the law before one can take the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers, I happened to read and study the ideas of Hilda Taba. She is very well known with her theory regarding the “Grassroots” and that educators must be involved in the designing of curriculum for every group of learners. This somehow fascinates me because such theory is not about the traditional one. Such is quite good because it uses many aspects but not limited to the very sophisticated pedagogies and philosophies. By simply diagnosing the capabilities and knowledge of certain learners, the teacher can instantly formulate objectives, prepare pedagogical approaches and evaluation and assessment to better facilitate learnings among his/her students.

As I reflect on the current scenario that we are right now, I can sense that Taba’s theory is very much suitable to be utilized, especially that we are using the Blended Learning Modality. We can see and diagnose the needs of every learners and thus, formulate our objectives and strategies for our learners to cope the challenges of these times.
Would such be easy? Definitely not. As a teacher for half a decade now, I would like to give some tips to better face the challenges brought about by this crisis and to somehow uplift our spirits and morale for the sake of our learners. I call it the 5Rs to bust Covid-19. Rejuvenate, Revisit, Rethink, Rekindle and Reward.

Rejuvenate. As the word implies, we must, us educators, relive our solemn oath as professional teachers, that we will do our best to deliver the curriculum and teach passionately our learners. By such, we will somehow regain our strength that has been continuously depleting because of the obstacles that we have been facing since we are not prepared and clueless regarding such scenario.

Revisit. Revisiting our curriculum must be done in order to facilitate learning to our students. Right the department has ordered us to simplify and focus on the most essential learning competencies that we have. Such move needs to be done, not because it is too long and redundant, but because we need to reconstruct, to assure that learning is still possible even in these trying times.

Rethink. This suggests that as teachers, we should be more creative and resourceful. To this date, printing modules has been already a part of our lives. Online class should be facilitated with lots of patience and passion so that no learner will be left behind. Such will our students to bring back their interests in learning.

Rekindle. This step would make our interest in teaching to be fortified. We should think not only the good memories in teaching, but as well as those things that which are not that good. Our experiences in the past would make as abreast in the right track. We must, us teachers renew our commitment and enthusiasm towards teaching so that our learners too, even their parents would be inspired by such attitude.
Lastly, Reward. Most of the time, our idea about such is only for our learners who have shown good performances during a particular Learning Quarter. In this, I suggest that we must also reward ourselves, tap our shoulders and say: “Hey, you did great today, self.” Appreciating and affirming our selves is good and realistic because we cannot laydown such good acts to others before we do it in our very own selves.

Let us not loose hope during this crisis, instead, we should firmly and wholeheartedly bring our best to secure the future of our future leaders—our learners. Padayon!

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