OF SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

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We are educated with the use of different symbols which are basically in the form of the language. At the very young age, a child learns through the different signs and symbols that will represent a particular object – a strategy of decoding inputs into his mind. Thus, allowing the child to remember and inculcate learnings.

As defined, symbols take the form of words, sounds, ideas or visual images. These are everywhere. In teaching field, we need all of these to do our job as teaching facilitators. We are completely surrounded by signs of all types. However, at times we neglect to utilize these to aid us in our teaching. Sometimes, it becomes invisible. Whether it is all about the use of our language nor instructional materials, make it as an assurance to provide an aid to equip and facilitate learnings.

As a teacher, we are very familiar with the use and importance of visual aids to encourage teaching process. As Singh (2005) defined, any device which by sight and sound increase the individuals’ practice, outside that attained through read labeled as an audio visual aids. This meaning shows that the range of using teaching materials includes not only the images or characters but also the sounds and spoken words. The quoted statement of Singh reminds us why auditory and sight play important role in the acquisition process. From sounds we can speak and from what we see we can response.

As the learners become matured in learning, the effect of the images can still in their minds, most especially when the learning activity is accompanied by the sounds. Undoubtedly, it was considered as important medium in learning most especially in learning the language.
In the study of Shabiralyani and Hamad, they mentioned that symbols and signs which are components of visuals serve as a motivational tool in enhancing students’ attention in learning and reading literary texts. The conclusion they presented also agreed that the effective use of visual aids substitutes monotonous learning environments. These conclusions can help us to be mindful in the materials that we are using in our classes.

As a science and technology teacher, it reminds me to be motivated and be innovative in the use of teaching aids that could benefit primarily our students. Teaching different field of sciences is truly a challenging task, but we can learn how to eliminate the common problems and roadblocks in our teaching tasks.

In addition, since we mostly used textbooks as our sources, it is a good reminder to all high school teachers to be exposed to the use of other teaching resources such as digital made materials without neglecting the legacy of using traditional methods. We can say that through these signs and symbols we can fulfill our goals.

References:
