PARTICIPATION OF TEACHERS IN ALLEVIATING THE STUDENTS FROM POVERTY

by:
Abel G. Magpoc
SHS Teacher III, Lamao National High School

Education is a powerful tool in alleviating people from poverty. Most of the time, people are declaring that poverty is a consequence of education. Thus, a person is poor because he did not persevere during his or her younger days and that he or she had wasted myriad opportunities when he or she was young. Though it may be true to those who chose to be abusive just enjoying their lives not paying attention to education, these may not to some. Some may just needed to work to feed their families who lean on them. On the same manner, some may have to travel in a long distance just to get in their school. These things are needed to be understood by the teachers. They need to have a wider and broad understanding. Teachers are not just teaching to educate the students but also to open an opportunity for these kinds of students for them to have brighter future.

Opening the opportunity for the students is to understand the situation of the students. Many of the students are coming from a poor family who just want to survive in their daily lives. Because of this desperation, they do not mind anymore whether they need to alleviate their lives from their current situation. In consequence, their children are conditioned to just earn money to help their family to survive. They seldom go to school because of this situation. Most often, teachers do not have any idea of this. What is just important to them is for the students to attend class every day, do the activities and performances they set, and comply with all their requirements. If the students do not meet the competency they settled, they will fail in the subject. Remediation is conducted not even taking a look or reflecting why the students cannot comply with their requirements.
Teachers have to create an open wide opportunity for the students to earn education (Korthagen, 2009). This can be in a form of tireless home visitation, remediation and reteach every time they will be around. Home visitation is a cordial visit to students who have failed to attend classes. However, this visitation informs students that they are still welcome to attend classes. For the families, it is a special occasion to show the participation of the parents in the academic formation of the students. For the teachers, it is the extension of their responsibility in order to understand the situation of their students. This affirms the social responsibility of the teachers as they participate in nation building by educating all the students regardless of their status quo.

In other situation, this can be in a form of modular class that they can comply at the comfort of their own time. They may prepare a written explanation or activities for the students in order to attain the competencies prescribed by the subject. They have to monitor these students in order to assess to whether they need an additional activities or a more comprehensive instruction. Teachers have to be flexible to the students not the student be flexible to the teacher. Gone with the days that learning is only situated with the four corners of the classroom. If situation calls, teachers have to reach down in order to save the students from failing and dropping.

These may sound so idealistic but if these are the only way for them to attain their diploma, no one has the right to hinder them. All of these are in the spirit of the vocation that each teachers have embraced since the time they have decided to take this noble path. Teachers are selfless individuals who have dedicated themselves (Philipp & Schüpbach, 2010) for the marginalized people who have the courage to alleviate their lives through education. It has to be understood that they are agent of education who are free and available to all no matter what. It is because education is for all and it is a means to help in alleviating students to poverty.
References:
