PAVING THE WAY WITH EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

by:

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"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," this was quoted from Benjamin Franklin and this maybe one of the most cliché lines that a person can use in relation to planning, but such words are accurate in every sense. A battle without a plan will surely be a losing a battle – which is pretty much applicable when you narrow it down to an educational institution.

Saha (2001) stated that educational planning generally is understood to be the identification, development, and implementation of strategies designed to attain, efficiently and effectively, the educational needs and goals of students and society. The practice of educational planning is not a new phenomenon and, according to some, can be traced to the writings of Plato, to Renaissance scholars, and more recently to post-Second World War experts.

Currently, educational planning is one of the most crucial first step of an institution. One should not open an academic year without planning. And when educational leaders use the term “planning”, it should be for a solid preparation that embodies all the aspects and components needed for an institution to properly execute its goals. Educational planning would help school managers in making an overview of the possible system and flow of an institution, may it be for one academic year or for a longer forecast. Proper educational planning would lay an essential blueprint towards reaching short term and long-term goals.

Educational planning is also necessary in validating the existing practices. It goes hand-in-hand with assessment and evaluation. After conducting assessments and
evaluations, the facts would be laid out, and from the gathered facts, it is the responsibility of an educational planner to make necessary plans to reinforce the weaknesses of an institution, and maintain improving its existing strengths. A plan should never be constant nor stagnant. As times change, the demands change as well, and it is another job for educational leaders to assume the demands of change, and make necessary alterations to an institution’s future plans, to cater relevant adjustments. Without a flexible and versatile planning, there will never be needed changes in an institution, and an institution that does not change is not progressing at all.

It is also important to do educational planning to always prepare for unusual scenarios. Routine and annual activities are not the only projects and schedules that school managers plan. Out-of-the-ordinary and worst case scenarios should also be projected by school managers in order to be prepared for the dynamism in every institution. Assuming and planning for logical worst case scenarios will never be a wasted effort, as it will make an institution ready for anything that comes in their way. Soldiers don’t win wars by running through the battlefield while waving their swords desperately, planning for the battle with flexible alternatives and backup plans are some of the keys in winning every battle.

A school leader who is a great educational planner is already walking towards meaningful leadership. Known leaders say that one of the hardest parts of the flow of leadership is the starting phase. It is always scary to take the first step, but if one can do proper planning, it is safe to assume that that leader is starting properly. It would always be better to be guided. If teachers have their lesson plans, and pilots have their manuals, an educational leader has an educational plan.

A proper head start would always be favorable, than walking through a path without even knowing the way nor the destination.
References: