POWER OF VISUAL AIDS

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Students have different ways of learning things. This affirms that not all learners are bearing the ability called photographic memory. This is understood as can store everything vividly inside the mind. Presently, teachers are maximizing the effect of pictures in teaching lessons. Thus, lessons are incorporated with photographs and other graphics in order for the students to visualize the concepts and to have concrete representation. Students find it hard to understand concepts if it is just represented by text. With this point of view, it is a challenge for teachers to be creative in making visual aids whether using technology or in the traditional way. However, the problem lies on the construction of an effective visual aid.

Construction of effective visual aids is a major concern. Even though in the life of the teacher, he or she once studied Educational Technology during his or her tertiary level, this is still not enough to suffice the present requirement for effective visual aids. One is required to explore the world of the youth at present to understand what amazes them that will lead to better understanding of the lessons. Likewise, an understanding that effective visual aids only exist on the realm of technology is absolutely hoax. It is because even though teachers are using the traditional usage of cartolina or manila paper, lessons can be still effective. It is just a matter of motivating the students to learn and facilitating them to learn the concepts. It is proven by some Filipino teachers that even there is no technology available, they can still deliver their lessons effectively.

There are various forms of visual aids that can generate the attention of the students all throughout the discussion. Teaching concepts can be effective through images, videos
and the like. However, it has to be understood that the focus is the lesson not the visual aids. These are just aids in learning the lesson, therefore, it has to be in moderation. There are cases that the videos use to do repetitions of the lesson. This serves as a sort of review on the previous lesson. This is effective in teaching English, Science and Filipino. Instead of repeating the lengthy discussions, it can just be played using a realistic example wherein students can synthesize what they acquired on the previous lesson. If there is no technology to be used, it can be done through sequential arts. It can be in a form of comic books, graphic novels, simple graphic representations and the like. But the same principle needs to be applied. They need to synthesize the concept being projected.

In the delivery of the lesson, the usage of PowerPoint presentations has become a common cliché in the classroom. The prime principle of this software is not to make the text to be legible but to understand clearly what is being discussed with the use of different techniques. Therefore, a PowerPoint presentation that is bloated with text is not actually serving its purpose. One has to draw key points that students can easily understand the concepts being imparted. With this, the students may not just remember the concepts but also can come up with their own understanding of the terms. On the other hand, tarpapel or tarpaulin that is made out of paper is a good alternative for the software. Like the previous method, the lesson is just broken down into key points presented in the medium. It is just provided with concrete, contextualized and many examples. Sort out examples in order for the students to learn the concepts.

It is advised to begin with what motivate students. Their interest has to be captured by the visual aids. Make it something that students may enjoy. The more they will enjoy to your lesson with the usage of visual aids, the more they will learn the lesson. Inspiration Software Incorporated declared that visual aids hone various competencies of the learners in school. Likewise, visually-inclined learning helps in organizing and analyzing information, learning patterns and relationships, integrate new knowledge, recall related details and understand the lesson completely. Moreover, Weinstein (2015)
claimed that a well-designed visual image leads to a much effective and memorable experience for the learners compared to a plain chalk-talk approach or textbook-based discussion especially if the students are still in elementary level. Students at younger age always seek for something which they can enjoy and can feed their eyes during class discussions.

Coming up with an effective lesson is a major challenge for teachers. Due to the consistent interference of technological advancement, they tend to opt for gadgets rather than listen to class discussions. Effective visual aid is one of the prime answers to gain the attention of the students. This will surely take time to construct but the learning of the students is priceless. These are the teachers’ best buddies that assure students are reaping the learning in the lesson. Better learning is achieved when information are communicated to the learners in both verbal and visual approaches (ISI, 2018).

References:
