REALMS OF TEACHER SUPPORT: MAINTAINING A FUNCTIONAL COLLEGIAL RELATIONSHIP

by:
Luzviminda T. Marcelo
Teacher I, Pita Elementary School

The dynamism of the teaching profession signals the intricacy and complexity in its realms. In this time of the pandemic, more than ever, teacher support is an essential element for successful learning delivery.

Collegial support has been promoted in the DepEd, especially with the institutionalization of INSET (In-service Training), LAC (Learning Action Cell), and the IS (Instructional Supervision), which encapsulate the provision for PLC (Professional Learning Community). They provide technical assistance for teachers to improve their competencies. Through the process of coaching and mentoring, teachers as colleagues exchange ideas and best practices to better their delivery of quality instruction.

As the mantra of DepEd says: “Education cannot exceed the quality of teachers.” It means that DepEd itself recognized the integral role of teachers in successfully implementing the K-12 curriculum; hence, they were trained continuously to equip and calibrate their competencies. Indeed, Philippine education itself cannot be of quality if the teachers themselves are not. Besides, teachers are considered as the curriculum implementers, that is why constant learning and professional transformation are a must for them. More so, the K-12 Law (RA 10533) and the Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016 (RA 10912) mandated the continuous training and development for teachers to make them competitive and responsive to the tenets of the 21st-century teaching-learning process.

Furthermore, Pecson and Lampa (2020) reiterated that compassion, love, and care for others are innate to Filipino teachers. Their unique character, values, and
professionalism are genuinely oriental, giving their hearts out for colleagues and the craft. The work itself defines who the teachers are, their sense of purpose, and direction in their professional career. As part of collegial support, they give and receive help from one another.

Indeed, collegial support is impactful for both experienced and early career teachers. The experienced teachers had the chance to mentor and coach novice ones in various concerns in their professional life. More importantly, the beginning teachers had higher chances of successful first years of experience in teaching, less burnout, and attrition tendencies.

References:


Republic Act No. 10533. An act enhancing the Philippine basic education system by strengthening its curriculum and increasing the number of years for basic education, appropriating funds therefor and for other purposes. Congress of the Philippines, Fifteenth Congress, Third Regular Session, May 15, 2013.