ROLE OF PRINCIPALS IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF TEACHING-LEARNING OUTCOME

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The qualifications of the school leaders determine school effectiveness (Keo, 2015). He/She is the driving force to realize the quality of the teaching and learning outcomes. As the new program for Basic Education, the K to 12 program, emphasized the outcomes-based education, the more challenges the principals are facing. Part of their tasks is the equipping of the teachers to level up their competencies to perform well in the classroom as facilitators not mere lecturers as they discharge their instructional role and of course, the other faculty roles such as adviser, guidance counselor, chairmanships and the like must be improved as well; the upgrading of the facilities such as the laboratories, electronic devices, internet softwares and others; The purchasing or securing of the library materials and audio visual resources; as well as the effective networking to solicit supports from the various stakeholders of the schools which includes among others, the parents, the public elected officials and other private benevolent individuals. Former Dep Ed Secretary Armin Luistro (DepEd, 2010), has called the attention of all the school principals to be pro-active in managing the schools they are assigned to.

To empower the Principals different competency building activities were conducted: trainings, workshops and seminars including undertaking K to 12 pedagogies towards improved quality learning outcomes, empowering school leaders and managers for a better learning environment, etc. and this year the Department of Education has lined up different more for the continuing education of its school leaders.

These empowerment activities will enable the Principals to carry out their roles and responsibilities. Effective principals (Wallace, 2013) should be commitment with
their school’s vision to raise their school’s banner of excellence and ensure success of students to put learning at the center of their daily activities; and is able to influence teachers to emphasize research-based strategies to improve teaching and learning; and initiate discussions about instructional approaches.

Given the important roles and responsibilities of the Principals in the education system they could make or unmake a nation. Nelson Mandela, former President South Africa once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.” As a Principal I personally advocate for a leadership that will change the thinking of teachers on teaching as mere delivery of instruction. Teaching should be seen as God’s gift to harness the potentials or gifts of every student entrusted in their care.

References:

Press Release Dep Ed. 2010


Wallace Foundation (2013). Five Key Responsibilities-The School Principal as Leader: Guiding Schools to Better Teaching and Learning.