SCHOOL NURSES, SCHOOL’S HEARTBEAT

by:
Edwin Tubania
Teacher I, Antonio G. Llamas Elementary School

“Nurses are made for hospitals and medical clinics only, they’re knowledge and skills are only apt at hospitals and clinics, not anywhere else.” People often set limits to medical officers as to where and when they could be functional and make themselves purposeful. Little do they know that nurses’ skills and knowledge are not limited to medical facilities only.

Department of Education must discern the vitality of having nurses as part of an academe. Schools house lots of children that are undeniable accident-prone and the usual to experience sickness. As noble as the teaching profession, the nursing profession also exists, and it is not only the hospitals that outgrew the need for them but also public and private offices including learning bays.

Some may say that teachers are also nurses in their own respective classrooms as they are taught and are aware on the performance of the basic first aid skills they can use whenever possible. The need for nurses is as not as strong as the need for extra conducive classrooms, armchairs, books and teachers.

Yes, partly correct. But school nurses are the only persons that are knowledgeable enough to perform beyond first aid precisely anchored by the health standards, without the fear of doing a procedure erroneously or aseptically. Some situations are tragic and first aid treatment will not be enough. Their medical eyes, determined at a glance the health status of school children so as teachers and all school personnel, giving them health teachings to at least improve the condition or totally treat it earlier. They also have direct contact with the Municipal or Provincial Health offices.
for the numerous health-related activities designed for Filipino children like deworming, vaccination and dental services we can’t expect our teachers to perform.

Department of Education, however assigned 1 district school nurse per municipality expecting them to monitor 20 or more primary and secondary schools every day. They are tasked to perform all health related activities projected of them for 20 or more schools. How can a nurse handle all 20 and more schools a day? Or are they able to perform efficiently with that kind of 20:1 ratio of schools per district and a nurse? Obviously not.

Mariveles District in the Province of Bataan is one lucky municipality for it is able to designate 1 school nurse per school, both for primary and secondary schools respectively. Each nurse is oriented with the school’s by laws they need to get acquainted to and follow being part of the academe. They are tasked to perform BMI computation, health assessment of every student from Kinder to Grade 6, Health Symposia for parents, Vaccination, Deworming, Feeding, Health check-up, Dental services, sometimes act as clerks, canteen aides, or even teachers when opportunity knocks. A Mariveles- situated school will never be complete without nurses, they became part of the school’s force fighting together against juvenile delinquency and ignorance. If teachers are gallantly self-sacrificing so as nurses.

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