SIGNIFICANCE OF GULAYAN SA PAARALAN

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We all know that many of our pupils are not in good living. Hunger and malnutrition are the reasons why some of them fail to continue their studies because they are lack of food to eat and money to buy food or other things they need in order to live which force them to stop or drop from school just to help their parents to earn a living. As educators, how can we help them to overcome this problem?

According to Department of Education Memorandum No.42, s. 2011, Enhancing and Sustaining School Gardening and Feeding in Support of the Government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). It states that the Department of Education fully supports the government’s campaign against poverty through the efforts to address the hunger and malnutrition among the poorest sectors of the country’s population. The government’s centerpiece program for poverty alleviation has the vision to help the poorest among the people to their most basic needs and eventually empower themselves into becoming productive citizens. It aimed also to enable their children to become healthy, to improve their learning capacity, and to complete schooling.

Secondly, the school nutrition program is a key element of the Department’s participation in this broad effort. The cultivation of vegetables and others nutrient-rich plants in school gardens shall serve as food baskets in order to have the ready source of vegetables for the feeding program in school. These two undertakings shall complement the government’s conditional cash transfer for the food-poor families.

In addition, all school officials join to strengthen, sustain and enhance school gardening activities and the school-feeding program specifically in 4Ps areas. The school health
nutrition staffs and personnel shall take the lead in the implementation of school gardening and feeding programs in close coordination with the Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (TLE) teachers.

Furthermore, the school officials are joining too to engage the active participation of parents and other members of the community in these activities. These endeavors will not transform the role of families and the community as major stakeholders in the poverty alleviation effort but will also reorient them on the basics of good nutrition and health enhancing practices.

Based on the Department of Education Memorandum No.293, s.2007, The Project “Gulayan sa Paaralan”, seeks to raise the level of public consciousness on the health and nutritional dimension as well as economic benefits of establishing the school, household and community gardens and established school gardens to serve as the food basket/main source of commodities to sustain supplementary feeding.

We therefore conclude that the significance of the department’s program, the Gulayan sa Paaralan can help to sustain in-school feeding program for the children. With low-cost nutritious food and this can encourage the community to plant variety of leafy and non-leafy vegetables in its backyards or in urban method gardening. This can help them to nourish their children to eradicate malnutrition then eventually and can possibly be a source of their income that will hand over for their family to continue the schooling of their children and to uplift their economic stability.