TEACH OR TECH?

by:
Jocelyn B. Ludovice
Teacher II, Bamban Elementary School

Change is inevitable. If we have to walk faster to keep up, then huge strides we must make. If our strides can’t still keep up, then we have to run steadfastly. That’s how we survive in this ever-changing world.

In today’s world, the biggest change that shook the whole world was the COVID-19 pandemic. It really changes our lives. But our world demands us to become adaptive and flexible to the ever-changing circumstances and to embrace the fluidity of these changes.

In the field of education, changes brought by this pandemic pave the way to increasing demand for the use of technology. High technology has become a necessity for everyone nowadays. The delivery of education has been a challenge for the teachers but because of technology, it will become possible even without physical interaction. As some say, “Face to face is out, virtual is in”. Even before, technology plays an important role in nearly all aspects of our lives. Whether we like it or not, technology is everywhere. The advancement of our technology is so swift that we need to step up our game to keep up with its pace.

From typing and printing of modules, conducting online seminars known as webinars, watching educational videos, listening to an educational radio broadcast, and many more, technology is being utilized. The presence of technology is a relief for us, but the question is, will learning merely rely on technology? Can technology be a teacher’s replacement during this time of the pandemic?
The answer is a big no. Yes, technology can help facilitate the learning process. It can be a powerful tool to educate learners, yet it cannot replace the role of a teacher. It is just used as a supplement to teaching but never a substitute for teachers. It cannot be effective without a knowledgeable teacher to operate and use it appropriately. It has great things to offer in educational services, but it still has its limitations. It is just merely an automated tool without a great teacher.

However, we are facing a battle that no one has anticipated—the COVID19 pandemic. The interaction between learners and teachers is still an important part of the learning process and helps them become productive members of society, without physical interaction through online or using phone calls. The invaluable lessons taught by a dedicated teacher cannot be replaced even with the best technology. The knowledge and life experiences that a teacher brings into the class are incomparable.

As the author, Elbert Hubbard said, “One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.” And we, teachers, are the extraordinary ones. No matter how advanced our technology is, we must always remember that the efficiency of its use still lies in our hands. It is not about teachers being replaced by technology, but how teachers utilized it to meet the educational goals.

References:

http://www.paradisealoha.com/articles/Making%20Change.htm

https://www.ashleyelizabethlynne.com/change-is-inevitable/

https://www quotes.net/quote/7089