TEACHERS AS LEARNERS: ATTENDING TRAININGS AND SEMINARS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Teachers are expected to have enough knowledge about the lessons that they are teaching because they will be transferring necessary information to their students. They have a big role in nurturing minds of the learners so that they will be prepared in their chosen careers in the future. Because of these crucial responsibilities, they must know a lot and should master the subject that they are teaching but the knowledge they have is not enough to be an effective teacher. They also need to know the different strategies and techniques in teaching so that they may know how to handle different situations inside the classroom.

According to Fernandes (2017), training or workshops in counselling and personal growth and development or even subject-specific courses, city academicians assert that school teachers need to be given more opportunities so that they can pass it on to their students. Even though they studied for years, passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) and had a master's degree, those are not reasons for them to stop learning because just like what we always hear, learning is a lifelong process. Teachers are still learners because they must continue to discover more things in the field in able to provide quality teaching to their students.

Teachers must always seek improvement within themselves. They cannot stop learning and discovering new techniques and strategies in teaching, and even information about the subject that they are teaching because there are always new trends in education. To keep with the pace in the non-stop changes in the guidelines and instructions for the development in Philippine education, they must attend trainings and seminars that will
give them improvements needed for them to cope with the demands in the classroom settings of 21st century learners.

Furthermore, Felipe (2013) stated that seminars regarding ICT, new methods and techniques in teachings, orientations on the K-12 Curriculum, Values Formation Seminars and the like must be attended by the teachers because she said that, these seminars will help create an effective learning environment, improve teaching-learning situations, keep updated on modern instructional devices and inspire them to become better teachers in the modern world. The trainings and seminars can also equip them with knowledge and skills that will prepare them and their students in globalization.

Teachers must grab these opportunities for their self-improvement and professional development since these trainings and seminars were offered free for them by the Department of Education. As teachers, they still need to keep on learning so that there would always be something new to be taught inside their classrooms wherein the students could learn and help them to be more competitive. It is not only the students who will benefit from these but their co-teachers as well because the attendees may echo what they have learned during the trainings and seminars so that teachers who were not able to attend will also be equipped with knowledge and skills that the attendees had acquired.

Huish (2014) said that professional development is important to energize educators. She also added that personal development should introduce educators to new ideas, teaching methods, structures, tools and technology that will benefit us every day in the classroom. The things they have learned could help teachers in several ways because applying those will benefit the students, other teachers and of course, the school system as a whole because the more the administrators are sending teachers to attend trainings and seminars, the better teaching they could provide.
As educators, they must always seek of many ways to educate themselves more. They must expand what they already know because the more knowledge they have, the more quality education they could give. They must also take into consideration that attending trainings and seminars are not only for themselves but for the betterment of the students, other teachers and educational community as a whole. Trainings and seminars should not be taken for granted as tools for higher rank but should be used to contribute to the development and improvements needed by the school.

References:

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