TEACHER’S LEADERSHIP SKILLS IMPACT ON STUDENTS’ ACHIEVEMENT

by:
Corazon Q. Nazareno
Teacher I, Magsaysay National High School

The teacher is not just a teacher but acts as a teacher’s leader, that why teacher’s leadership skills contribute meaningfully to students’ performance – which means teachers’ sense of efficacy links his responsibility as a leader in the classroom for effective teaching-learning to happen (as reflected in the Deped mission statement).

As Warren Bennis has said that knowing yourself, having a vision that is well communicated, building trust among colleagues, and taking effective action to realize your own leadership potential is the start of leadership skills. Therefore, teacher leadership is discovering teacher’s potentials, utilizing the God-given talents to catch the glimpse of what God wants to do through life to become His servant to help, to guide, and direct others.

The teacher, as a leader inside the classroom has a great role in influencing students to achieve better in academic areas. As a classroom leader, a teacher possesses some characteristics or qualities that make him stand out from the rest not to demean them but to show them the way to have fulfilled and happy life as well.

The leadership skills of a teacher are characterized by the following qualities:

1. As a leader, the classroom teacher must have a sense of purpose. As a leader, a teacher has intelligent plans of action that includes being realistic about his strengths and weaknesses, and yet brave enough to face obstacles. He leads the students by guiding them to the right track of materializing their purpose.
2. As a leader he has a vision and strives to channel his energies in positive and productive efforts to achieve his vision. His focus is to make his vision realistic not only for self-satisfaction or glory but also for changing and uplifting others’ life. He keeps on encouraging students to pursue higher learning to become more competitive.

3. A teacher as a leader has a tough and tender heart. As a teacher and leader, making the decision and implementing it is not that easy. Sometimes he needs to be hard hearted in making decisions because he must admit that out of a tough approach he can hurt others’ feelings, but by being consistent he can help improve the performance of his students.

St. Thomas Aquinas once said, “It is better to correct with anger than without anger.” The teacher sometimes needs to be tough and consistent in imposing values and discipline. In some ways, a leader also needs to be tender-hearted not only to those students who deserve appreciation but especially to those who need special attention, not just as a classroom teacher but as a second parent that guides and protects them.

4. A leader never, never give up!. Teachers with leadership skills must be wise in influencing their students and colleagues and serve as mentors, facilitators, curriculum specialists as well as making innovations in teaching and learning groups. A quotation from an anonymous author goes like this, “Champions make decisions that create the future they desire, while losers make decisions that create the present they desire.” Teacher as a leader never gives up to problem he is encountering with, but seek opportunities in times of trials. He believes that everything God created is a solution to a problem. Life is full of ups and downs, but as a leader, he sees the challenges as invitations to greatness.

5. A leader asks for wisdom from God, not only seeking it through undergoing experiences and studies. Wisdom is the source of power or strength of a leader. As it is written in the book of Proverbs, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on
your own understanding.” Wisdom from God comes in the form of courage, confidence, or perseverance, and it’s God's prevailing power that can change people’s attitudes in even circumstances.

Thus, based on the above qualities, teacher leadership skills must positively influence students’ behavior and help increase their performance in school. Teachers are individuals that show exemplary behavior in the school. Teachers should set a good example so that the students can always emulate them. They must play their part to improve the attitudes of those people around them contribute towards the formation of a good educational environment in the school”.

An effective leader, I believed, must possess not only a strong personality but also a strong faith in God that is reflected in all things he is doing or will be doing. As a teacher and leader, he must be a person that has the ability to act as the leader and takes it as a calling or gift from God to serve others. Thus, as a teacher, because he is a leader, is not just a profession but a vocation, and a special calling from God.

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