TEACHING OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE IS A BIG CHALLENGE FOR TEACHERS

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Teaching is a noble profession, this statement has a big impact for all of us teachers. The statement implies that being a teacher is being a servant of the community, wherein you have to render most of your time with your pupils and give them the best that you can give. Also doing things beyond your duties and responsibilities. We teachers, literally should be flexible in doing the tasks that are not part of our job.

A decade of teaching makes us knowledgeable enough and gives us a lot of experience in every approach and style of teaching. We can say that it is easy for us to handle our pupils because somehow teaching becomes part of our everyday routine. It gives us confidence to stand in front of our pupils and teach them everything that we know. We behave in such a way that we are masters of our crafts where teaching can be viewed to become easy.

But there are some instances that there are things that are very new to us as a teachers that things are simply out of our comfort zones. This give us a big challenge especially today’s we are facing new curriculum, the K-12 Curriculum. It gives us the feeling of being uncomfortable, but we need to step outside the comfort zone of the teaching box even if the changes are too tough to manage.

According to Therese Huston, author of “Teaching of What You Don’t Know” (Harvard Press, 2009.) “It is common for faculty to be teaching outside their comfort zones. There is not just the content challenge but also the challenge of teaching students you don’t know”.

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There is a saying “We cannot give what we do not have.” This only means that we, as teachers, should learn new styles and approaches to teaching especially in today’s changes. Teachers should always possess a positive attitude towards changes no matter what the circumstances are. It will give progress not only for the learners but especially a progress for all of us teachers and take all the challenges through teaching positively and constructively.

Sometimes teachers tend to complain of new tasks being assigned especially if these tasks are out of their expertise and capability. It leads to uncomfortable feelings and burn out of teacher’s emotion. But if the teachers look at it in a positive way, it will never burden their feelings and emotions instead they will take it as a challenge that should be faced head on. Because in reality, teaching is one difficult job, but through courage, initiative and passion nothing will be tough.

Teachers must be aware of their own level of competency so as to be extra conscious of how teaching affects the learning of the learners. The teachers play the vital role in the daily lives of their pupils. Teachers need to master many types of knowledge of the curricular development. The goal of teaching is constant and a never ending improvement. Such a simple shift in our thinking can make a huge difference in our performance both in and outside our comfort zone.

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