TECHNOLOGY AND LIFELONG LEARNING: REFLECTIONS FROM A TEACHER

by:
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Rebecca Lawson once said that "Excellence can only be achieved when great respect is placed on learning, teamed with patience and effort. Because of the changing times in which we live, we must constantly strive to improve ourselves through life-long education. It is invaluable for us to know how to utilize technology for our continued success in learning."

Truly indeed, while we always believe that the teacher is the best instructional material available in the classroom, we cannot deny the fact that the teacher cannot do everything in the teaching and the learning process. While we can perform a one-man show in providing education to our students, we have to admit that we have to get all the possible help we can get to help us become more efficient and effective teachers. Enter technology and how it helps us become teachers of the new century, readily adaptable to the post-millennial learners. As I reflect over the years as a teacher, I realized that the more I learn and explore, the more I see that looks valuable and interesting that needs exploring. Thanks to technology because new tools for teaching and learning has made teaching and learning more fun. I realized that teaching is not just about me and my learning process but how would I be able to motivate and inspire my students to learn with technology as a catalyst.

According to Wantulok (2015) there are 10 reasons for the importance of technology in education: Students demand it, new teachers are demanding it, kids are the digital native, kids can learn at their own pace, with technology, there are no limitations, technology has the ability to enhance relationships between teachers and students, testing has gone
online, multitude of resources, technology keeps kids engaged, and technology is necessary to succeed outside of primary and secondary education.

Technology and learning have become intertwined, meaning both of them enhance each other. Technology has become so advanced that teachers and students can customized their use of technology in their own learning. Many technology platforms today like Google Classroom and Facebook Learning Groups can be easily customized. Time and distance become immaterial when technology is integrated with learning. Technology provides the creation of opportunities for repetition and practice. Students can bring their learning tasks at home and therefore we are able to encourage extended learning that goes beyond the walls of the classrooms. We have to teach our students to become lifelong learners. Technology has changed the way teachers instruct their students and in effect has provided a deeper approach of providing innovative contents to students. Because of technology, we can train our students to become independent and lifelong learner. No longer must students rely only on the information that the teacher presents. In academia, the teacher should not be the only source of knowledge. Students must be able to perform research, analyze their findings, and then integrate those to their own learning. This learning we call active learning is a very important skills in this world of competitiveness. Turning our students to become independent learners prepare them for success. Let us promote technology as a means for lifelong learning, and of course life success for all our students.

References:
