TECHNOLOGY AND SCHOOL LEADERS IN THE NEW NORMAL

by:
Alvin D. David
School Principal II Culis Elementary School SDO – Hermosa Annex

With the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 in the world today, even our educational system is greatly affected by this pandemic. Specifically, school administration is now faced with a variety of problems and challenges in ensuring support for the learners and teachers in the implementation and management of the learning delivery modality adopted in their schools. This is considered a 360-degree turn of events for all, especially with supervision and management. Before, leaders of the school are comfortable with face to face scenario in providing instructional supervision and support to teachers and the learners. The possibility of doing this becomes unrealistic due to the situation. Principals and teachers are now presently engaged with the new alternative work arrangement which is mostly working from home settings. In this event more than ever, school leaders’ abilities, capabilities, aptitude, and knowledge blended with methodologies and strategies are really required in this new normal which can greatly influence the schools and the organization itself.

In our present situation, it is important that school leaders must equip themselves with knowledge about the use and mastery of technology. They should elevate their skill in the use of devices such as computers and laptops as well as take time to practice and become comfortable with the online platform. Virtual set up is the name of the game so school leaders must adapt and be accustomed to it. It is now an added quality for them to become experts on technology. Tasks and roles of school leaders can be effectively done through it.

First and foremost, school leaders will utilize technology in disseminating, providing, and receiving information to its stakeholders both internal and external. They
must ensure that the information is clear and accurate and be made accessible and available to all. Online will also be the means of receiving reports and other assigned tasks. Training will be in the form of webinars. Here, school leaders must be knowledgeable in the use of technology to transmit effectively information for the professional growth of the teachers.

Second, technology plays an important part in the instructional roles of school leaders. Technology will be a tool in motivating and inspiring teachers to accomplish the organizational activities for the attainment of the target goals. Maintaining positive communication through remote means with the teachers especially in feedbacking, monitoring, and giving technical assistance will assure the success of any programs initiated in the school. School leaders will provide support and resources to teachers to effectively deliver learning to learners.

Lastly, the use of technology is very important to forge a strong partnership with stakeholders. In the new normal, school leaders can make use of technology to promote the different activities and programs where stakeholders can participate and collaborate. Facebook, Group chats, and other social media platforms are now the avenues for communication with the community and other school partners. Opportunities for support and assistance from the different sectors will continue through technology.

There is a strong relationship between technology and school leaders managing the school in the new normal. It is imperative that every school leader must respond and lead in the virtual environment by keeping abreast of the latest technology because after all change is inevitable.
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