THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A YOUTH FORMATOR

by:
Lyan Marie F. Genavia
Teacher II, Nagbalayong National High School

Moulding the youth in holistic development is one of the major responsibilities of being a teacher. In all professions, the obligations of giving quality education among the youth is in their hands. That is why teachers are also called Youth Formators. Imagining how teachers raised in other generations deal with the students raised in millennial generations. There is a generation gap between teachers and students. In this situation, teachers should overcome different challenges.

According to the research, there are top challenges of being a teacher.

1. “Learning more about their students” Teachers must know their clientele—the millennial students who raised in the generations far from the generation of the teachers. Researchers Neil Howe and William Strauss called Millennials as “the next great generation” They define the group as those born in 1982-2012. Teachers must adopt differentiated instruction to address Millennials’ different learning style.

2. “Discipline” “It is an endless task of keeping the class in control”. That is why youth formators must be trained in classroom management. Reinforcing classroom rules is advised.

3. “Time management”-Teachers are expected to manage their time in preparing lesson plan and teach those plan to the entire class, Grades, tests, other teaching-related task and other coordinatorship assigned to them must be included in the list. Teachers may need to sacrifice extra time just to figure out how to manage their time.
4."Updating learning materials and textbooks" - Since the students are the millennial generation born during the boost of technology, Teachers of today are challenged to prepare more advance learning materials and use of appropriate textbooks. But one of the problems encountered by public school teachers is the lack of learning materials and textbooks provided by the government. Teachers should be resourceful and flexible to meet the quality education.

5. “Being a 21st century teachers” - Students of these days are so use of technology. Teachers of today should possess 21st century skills to produce more 21st century learners.

6."Class size of more than 20” - One of the most challenging part of being a teacher is how to handle too many kids in a classroom. It is not easy to handle a big class inside and outside the classroom while ensuring that everyone is learning. Teachers should find ways on how students learn despite of their numbers especially in public schools where there are 40-60 students per class. Teachers should use different teaching strategies in teaching-learning process.

7."Communicating with too many parents” - Parents-teacher conference is one of the important activities to be done in every quarter in the school in order to report students’ progress. Teachers track students progress and present information to parents. Too many students means too many parents to deal with. Teacher- imposed discipline may differ from how parents disciplined their children. Open communication between parents and teachers is a big yes in order to achieve their common goal. Engaging parents in school activities creates a quality learning environment.

8.Dealing with co-workers- Once belong to one institution, new teachers may encounter co-workers with different attitudes. Some may become a burden but some are willing to extend their hands in mentoring other teachers. Teachers should learn how to deal
properly with co-workers. Camaraderie and unity among faculty are the keys to have a stress-free workplace.

Overcoming challenges in teaching create a responsible youths and citizens of the future. Being a trust-worthy contributor to a nation-building is one of the greatest accomplishments the teacher may attain. So my dear co-teachers, be challenged! Para sa bata, para sa bayan.....

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