THE ICEBERG ILLUSION OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

by:

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You cannot go out without wearing a face mask and alcohol in your bag. Footmarks painted on the ground are seen everywhere as a reminder of social distancing. Vulnerable ones are not allowed to leave their home. These are some of the protocols being observed in response to the safety measures to avoid the spread of the deadly virus – the COVID-19.

In just a snap of a finger, everything changed. Everybody needs to adjust to the so-called New Normal. Social gatherings are not allowed and so, the conduct of face-to-face class. While many are suggesting to postpone the conduct classes this school year, DepEd is firm that we can continue to conduct classes by using the online platforms, alternative delivery modules and blended-learning. The opening of classes is rescheduled from August 24 to October 5 to give ample time for the preparation.

Teachers are being questioned by some individuals on why they are continuously receiving their salary while they are in the comfort of their homes during this quarantine. An online rant has also recently become viral degrading the dignity of the teachers. What they don’t know is that teachers prefer the old normal rather than the new normal where they are required to work from home. What other people see is an iceberg illusion. They don’t see the multiple tasks that teachers need to accomplish for the smooth delivery of education in this new normal. Here are some of these tasks:

Online Enrolment. Teachers are tasked to contact every learner from their previous advisory class for the online survey that will be used as a database in the application of modalities of learning. Daily enrolment is monitored by the supervisors. The struggle is
to reach learners with no cellphones and messenger accounts. Teachers also seek the help of the LGU to find the said learners and have them answer the survey.

Webinars. To enable teachers to continue their development despite the pandemic, several webinars that cover different topics from content mastery to the proper use of online platforms of learning like Google classroom and strategies for blended learning were done. Teachers need to upgrade and cope up with the sudden changes that are far different from the traditional way of teaching. Even staff meetings are held via Zoom or Google Meet. Necessary reports are also sent a click away.

Module Preparation. The Philippines is known for its slow internet. In this regard, online classes will be at stake. The majority of the parents/guardians prefer to utilize ADM modules instead of online learning for their children not only because of slow internet but also because they have no gadgets to use. Preparing modules is not an easy task because teacher-writers, evaluators, and illustrators need to undergo a series of training in order to produce quality modules. Modules produced need to undergo screenings and revisions before it will reach the learners. Module reproduction is also a challenge because the school needs to provide one module every week for each learner.

Lesson Presentations. What also keeps the teachers busy is the preparation of videos and PowerPoint presentations to be used in online learning. Teachers utilize the Google classroom to upload virtual educational materials. Not to mention the extraordinary teachers that accepted the challenge to become radio and tv broadcasters.

Despite the criticisms, teachers continue to perform their duties for the love of their profession and their learners. What teachers do will not be compared to any amount of money. Instead of judging, support them. Expressing your support and appreciation will matter a lot.

References:  https://opinion.inquirer.net/129286/ph-education-and-the-new-normal