THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTAINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by:
Mary Grace G. Legaspi
Teacher III, Casupanan Elementary School

Professional development is about lifelong learning. As educators, we have to attain progress and refine our teaching skills. In the teaching world where every moment seems to have more to learn, it is vital to update ourselves not just with the latest trends but at the same time, to enhance our skills in dealing with the innovations that come along our way.

For teachers, the most common and effective ways to attain professional development are through attending courses and seminars or trainings. Both can help examine the way we think and deal with certain situations.

In a study conducted by Flores (2013) entitled “Influence of Graduate Studies in the Teaching Performance of Public Elementary School Teachers in the First District of Bataan”, it was found out that the respondents were greatly influenced by their graduate education especially in their teaching performance based on their CB-PAST rating. Most of the respondents obtained the very satisfactory status in the evaluation tool. This implies that through graduate studies, teaching performances were strengthened, developed, enhanced and improved. Quality education was also expected knowing that teachers are pursuing graduate education. Being aware that graduate education has a positive impact on the performance of the teachers, school administrators should therefore motivate teachers who are currently enrolled in the graduate program to finish their studies and for teachers who are not yet enrolled to take graduate program.

In addition, along with professional development, teachers should also practice goal setting. Though sometimes, it seems hard to schedule our time to attend courses
and seminars, but in the end, it is worth to improve what we’ve got. Setting realistic and attainable goals are necessary to propel forward.

Professional development is also an opportunity for improvement. Through attending seminars and trainings, teachers can overcome challenges by improving themselves. We gain confidence by learning new methods and techniques in our particular field.

Indeed, professional development is vital whether you are a new or a veteran teacher. It will keep you motivate to overcome the obstacles in your day-to-day teaching. It will make you equipped in the battlefield of life. As new teaching information, tools, techniques and methods are being updated, modified or changed, experience alone is not enough. It is indeed a necessity to take steps forward through attaining professional development.

References:
http://www.teachhub.com/teacher-professional-development-goals

Flores, Aileen S. (2013) Influence of Graduate Studies in the Teaching Performance of Public Elementary School in the First District of Bataan, Bataan Peninsula State University, Dinalupihan, Campus