THE SPONGE EFFECT: ABSORPTION AND DESORPTION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

by:
Angelyne E. Pedron
Teacher III, Orani National High School

Teaching and learning are continuous processes of absorption and desorption of information. What do we mean by this?

It depicts the sponge effect on teaching and learning. Like a sponge, teachers and students absorb information and later desorb information once they had processed and utilized it. After desorption, they are ready to absorb information again. In today’s shifts in education and the advent of technology, teachers need to revisit the types of information they feed on the learners and the quality of learning after the educative process. Also, the students need to be mindful of what they perceive and be considerate in sharing what they know with others.

The said processes of absorption and desorption are essential in today’s education. The absorption process ensures the acquisition of new knowledge helps build memories and construct new competencies. Also, the process of desorption is critical as it is a manifestation of having new space for learning since we already shared information that we learned and taught others about them.

Indeed, teachers and students are like sponges – they absorb new things, squeeze them, and shared with others. By sharing and teaching others, we can better understand the said concepts, ideas, or knowledge ourselves.

As professionals, teachers must teach students to learn new things and share what they know with others. It’s a passion that would make them beneficial to humanity and natural catalysts of change. The sponge activities that teachers must provide should be
activities that soak up precious time that would otherwise be academically rich and laughter-provoking. Meaning, sponge activities should be fun and educational at the same time.

However, the process of absorption and desorption is not a learning habit fully ingrained among Filipino learners. The common misconception being fed among learners nowadays is that they need to keep information on themselves for competition and popularity purposes – the insecurity of losing the competition or fear of others overtaking us or being better than us. But that should not be the case. Isn’t it worth fulfilling to be a learner and teacher at the same time?

Keep learning, sharing, and teaching. Be a SPONGE!

References: