TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

by:
Jennifer G. Cruz
Dinalupihan Elementary School

Nowadays, Technology is playing an increasing role in education. As technology advances, it is used to benefit students of all ages in the learning process. That is why, I can say that we are very fortunate that the Department of Education provided computer package which is the Computerization Program (DCP) that aims to provide public schools with appropriate technologies that would enhance the teaching-learning process and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The following are the objectives of the DCP:

- Provide ICT packages to public schools that is responsive to the needs of the K-12 curriculum;
- Integrate ICT in the teaching and learning process;
- Raise the ICT literacy of learners, pupils, students, teachers and school heads;
- Improve computer-to-student ratio in the public schools, and
- Improve the replacement cycle of ICY packages.

What does it show? From traditional to innovative way, teaching process changes dramatically and it helps a lot to make the teaching-learning more efficient and more interesting to learners thus improving the quality of education.

What is Integration of eClassroom in education? From its tagline “Transforming Education through Technology, the knowledge deepening approach has a greater impact on learning.
Technology must now be used to aid teaching not just “because it is there”, where the teacher dabbles with technology, not having a real focus on its use within the lesson but uses it as an add-on or at a very basic level (no real impact on the learning process). Publishing a piece of writing in Word rather than hand writing it would be an example of this. Also, using an LCD projector instead of a white/black board for a lesson. Another example would be researching on the Internet rather than in an Encyclopedia. These are all great things, and great ways to use technology, but they are only replacing the way we have always done things with something that might be faster, easier, and more accurate. In the end however, they are still the same old things we have been doing for years in education. We used to read from a book, now we can read and look at the original document. Instead of talking about a battle site, we can now visit that site virtually. These are not new things; they just enhance the old ways of doing things.

Does technology allow students to learn from people they never would have been able to without it? Does the technology allow students to interact with information in a way that is meaningful and could not have happened otherwise? Does the technology allow students to create and share their knowledge with an audience they never would have had access to without technology?

Many of us teachers are not at this level yet and many might never get here because this level of technology use requires a new way of looking at learning. One in which many of our schools are not yet prepared to look deeply into.

As you evaluate ourselves as a teacher, we should be looking for answers to the above mentioned questions. I am not advocating that every lesson should use technology or that every lesson should try to answer “New things in New ways”. However, it is good to know just how the technology is being used. There is nothing wrong with only using an LCD projector, or Google Earth to visit a battle site. It is good to know if those things happen in a classroom and put it into perspective just what impact the technology is having on teaching and learning. If a teacher is only ever ‘dabbling’ or doing ‘Old things
in Old ways’ then a conversation can start about how to move the use of technology to a deeper more meaningful level within the classroom.

It is great to see teachers using technology in their lessons during an evaluation. It is even more informative if you can evaluate at what level that technology is effecting learning. Is it a replacement for the way we do things or is it something completely new and pushes both the students and teacher to new heights, new learning and new knowledge?

References:

http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Role-of-Technology-in-Education&id=1745666