WHY ATTAIN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

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Young teachers yearn for the day when they would know their craft so well, be so competent, so experienced and so powerful, that they would walk into any classroom without feeling afraid. And for them to achieve this there is a need for professional development.

Teacher’s professional development is a process of enhancing teachers’ status through increased awareness and an expanding knowledge base. Professional development is essential for every individual, whether employed or not. It is vital for every organization to increase the knowledge and skills of their employees. They should strive to enhance the quality of performance, to ensure an improvement in the personal and professional front. Professional development boosts the individual’s career and promotion, through research, seminars and training and by working with professionals who are experienced.

It is a major problem if a teacher has not much knowledge even about his own subjects. Teachers’ professional development is now deemed a significant component of policies that enhanced interest in research that identifies the feature and importance of effective professional learning. Today, funds are allocated to promote professional development programs, through this, opportunities are provided. We all know that great teachers create great pupils and different sectors look at pupils' achievements related to the performance of their teachers.

One way of attaining professional development is to enroll in a graduate school. Flores (2015) in her study “Influence of Graduate Studies in the Teaching Performance of
Public Elementary School Teachers in the First District of Bataan” revealed that teachers who are attending graduate studies are proficient in instructional competencies, school, home and community linkages and highly proficient in personal, social growth and professional characteristics. Overall, it signifies that teachers performed in a very commendable manner.

Professional development is like an exemplar that takes care of knowledge, skills and attitude. In other words, a professional development program should involve a head, hand and heart. It updates us to maintain awareness of new developments in teaching and learning. It also supports policymaking, planning, implementation and evaluation of teacher education. More so, it promotes continuous development.

The worth of professional development for the teacher is immeasurable. Professional development creates educational reforms that not only update the skills and knowledge of the teacher but also enhance the pupils’ productivity and achievement. Indeed, professional development in a broadway develops a person in his or her professional role.

References: