

## ISSUE ON OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHING

*by:*

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Out-of-field teaching or teaching outside of one's specialization is a common problem repeatedly encountered due to the lack of qualified teachers produced among teacher education institutions or teachers applying for the position. Such brought to some of the perennial problems encountered in education, such as the learners' poor competencies and pedagogy issues. Added to such is the current emergency in education, posing more difficulties in delivering quality education.

Indeed, teachers cannot give what they do not have; hence, teachers who handle major subjects are deemed more competent than out-of-field. As the Department of Education (DepEd) emphasized, Filipino teachers need to be competent based on the provisions of the Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers or PPST (DO No. 42, s. 2017). It provides the standards that constitute quality teaching based on the prescribed competencies deemed necessary to execute by Filipino teachers to improve instruction and raise the quality of instruction in the country. Such makes them more accountable as teaching professionals and as partners by the state in elevating Philippine education at par with international standards.

As the DepEd believes, the quality of education cannot exceed the quality of teachers; hence developing further the pedagogical competencies of teachers secure the delivery of quality education and produce quality learners. Teachers are the most crucial resource of education and curriculum implementers; hence, they need continuous support, especially out-of-field teachers. Notably, there are still many teachers handling subjects that are not their area of specialization. Consequently, teachers need to be

assisted through in-service training to address their problems effectively and not be burned out and leave the profession.

More so, out-of-field teaching has perennially existing and should not be undermined as such may be one of the root causes of long-standing issues in education. Though the problem persists even today, many things can still be done to ease the burden experienced by the teachers, especially in the current situation brought about by the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

*References:*

DO No. 42, s. 2017. National adaptation and implementation of the Philippine professional standards for teachers. DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.