

OF LIFE AND LOVE

by:

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It has been years since I decided to take this noble profession. At first, I was very hesitant because I know the weight of responsibility of a professional teacher. I probably have imagined then the life that awaits me once I started scribbling the promise of hope for my students. Sleepless nights, hit by avalanche of paper works, tedious requirement, are all part of a teacher's job. Based from the book written by (Liston, 2000) in teaching, love and suffering may be inexorably linked. If our need for knowledge draws us all into the classroom, seeking for the whirling top, the strings of despair may trap us in a barren and empty room. Do not get me wrong, I do not regret the life I have now. Never will I regret being an educator.

When I was in college, I knew for sure that life of a teacher is never that silky smooth. I realized it more when I became a licensed professional teacher. I know that based from the writing of (Trafi-Prats & Woywod, 2013) teachers as intellectuals, arbiters of their very own profession, and public servants who enhance their students' learning experiences and lives. I have handled diverse kind of students. I have handled a class of mixed personality. Others were doing great academically while others do not take their education seriously. Others excel in extra-curricular activities like dance, choir, and theater while others decided to just be at their comfort zone. There were tales of broken family while others receive little to no attention from their parents because of the busy schedules for earning a living. You see, as a teacher we need to learn to deal with our students. We need to embrace diversity and in as much as we could, create a harmonious environment for all.

It was during that time that my passion to be an educator enflamed more than ever. I realize that the teaching profession is not just about the lesson we can get from textbooks. It is not always about grammar, science, or numbers. It is not always about preparing a lesson plan or giving exams to see who understands the lesson well. Being a teacher is a life and being a teacher is about love. To emphasize, (Sekar, 2017) mentioned in his study that each teacher should empower themselves to confront the environment and give excellent teaching.

I do not want to be a hypocrite saying that this profession never exhausted me. Yes there were times that I thought of giving up. There were times that I questioned my worth as a teacher. There were times that I found myself crying because of the things that I need to sacrifice to be a better teacher. And that sacrifices include my time to my family and to myself. There were family occasions that I have not attended due to my school works. There were times that work-related requirements consume even my supposed-to-be rest time. Despite the fact that it is widely known that primary school teachers are paid so little that it is almost hard to recruit competent applicants to teach (Islam, 2015). But then again, I will never regret choosing this profession.

As they say, being a teacher is the noblest profession. The diversity of my students, the workloads, the requirements these give me the sense of life. It gives me the satisfaction that at the end of the day, I made a significant contribution to this society by being true and committed to my sworn duty. Teaching is life and what makes this life prosper? It is the unconditional love.

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