

THE FIGHT FOR EDUCATION AMID PANDEMIC

by:

Marites P. Banzon

Teacher III, E.C. Bernabe National High School

It was four o'clock in the morning when the alarm clock started to produce that annoying yet significant sound. I opened my eyes and stared blankly at the ceiling contemplating on things which I don't have control over like what the future holds for me and for my students. I slightly moved my head to have a peek at the window on my right. It was still dark and the sound of my six-year old electric fan was the only noise I could hear. I moved my head back at the ceiling and stayed in that position for another minute. I know, my body was tired but my mind was full of stuffs that I need to accomplish. As the thought of my deliverables thumped in my head, I jumped off my bed and immediately prepared myself for yet another day of work as a teacher.

They say being a teacher is one of the most fulfilling jobs in the world. I agree with them. Nothing compares to the feeling you get when you realize that you were part of your students' success in life. It is indeed satisfying to know that while you are delivering your purpose, you create significant impact in the world.

It was thirty minutes before eight when I arrived at the school. It was a good day and the weather was fine. Like the everyday scenario, children were outside their classrooms waiting for their respective teachers. Others were busy reading books while some are exchanging stories that happened over the weekend. As I entered in my homeroom, with all-out smile my students immediately rose up and delivered their usual greetings to me which I responded with full enthusiasm. After some minutes I started discussing my lesson for the day.

It is indeed heart-thumping to look back to those days when everything was normal. Those days before Covid-19 rattled the world. Who would have thought that in just a snap of time, the world will stop from revolving and all of us will be confined inside our home. Economic activities stopped and school operations halted. Uncertain of what the future may bring, the schooling immediately shifted from face-to-face classes to blending learning.

I must admit. Online classes pose a challenge to us as teachers. But most especially, it is a great challenge to our students who need to adapt in the situation. It is a challenge to those who are less privilege and have no access to online learning. They must exert extra effort reading and answering their modules at home.

More than that, home and online schooling affects everyone's sanity. We cannot underestimate the stress that everyone gets from this abrupt changes. It is as if your personal and academic life were compounded in one space and you find it hard to separate one from the other.

But as they say, we will all rise on the occasion and fight for what we all deserve -

a good quality education. This pandemic may have pose a great threat to our education system but it can never bring down our students' spirit and eagerness to learn. As teachers, it can never put out our burning passion to make a change through our profession.

It was eleven in the evening when I was able to accomplish all my deliverables. As I lay down back on my bed I stared again at the ceiling but this time, with full of hope that tomorrow will be a different story.

References:

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