

CLOSE TO REALITY: THE LOCALIZATION APPROACH IN EDUCATION

by:

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"Goals have to be realistic and flexible." -- Shannon Miller.

Teaching is an integral element of a successful education; however, it must deal with reality to draw more relevant indications. It was always dreamt in the department to provide a quality education responsive to the local and global demands, and it was absolutely a good vision. With this, the curriculum of the Philippines had been changed several times seemingly it became experimental, and teachers were forced to attend various training even those non-relevant for the sake of gaining CPD units. But still the result, our nation was one of those countries landing on the lowest ranks.

There had been numerous approaches proposed to improve the learning process which teachers kept on applying to their daily teaching activities. There comes the silent way, grammar-translation, learning by doing, and the one less explored is localization. Localization is the process of relating learning content specified in the curriculum to local information and materials from the learner's community in terms of geography, cultural diversity, and individuality (Torres, 2015). By doing this, the reality can be brought to the students. Instead of asking them to think or imagine concepts or things they were not familiar with, through the localization approach, learners can have engagement and a sense of relativity to the lessons.

Applying the localization approach was one way to activate the greater interest level of the students as they were familiar with the concepts. Instead of discussing the Mt. Mayon in a science lesson on volcanic eruption, a teacher handling a Kapampangan class

may use Mt. Pinatubo as an example. A Math teacher giving a task about quadrilaterals may send the students outside and take pictures of anything that fits the quality of a quadrilateral. It went like teachers just need to deliver the students closer to their surroundings for the facilitation of better and best learning.

There was no single strategy that fits all students, but we can choose localization to prove its worth in education because it is true that goals must be realistic and flexible.

References:

UNESCO (2020). UNESCO Rallies International Organizations, Civil Society and Private Sector Partners in a Broad Coalition to Ensure #LearningNeverStops. UNESCO.

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