

HOW CAN CURRICULUM BE INTEGRATIVE?

by:

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The backbone of every instruction we have in the Philippines is the curriculum. The K-12 curriculum demonstrated excellence as students are given more opportunities to achieve and be masters of their own skills. In this time of crisis, there is a need to remodel and reshape the curriculum that we are using. Should someone ask 'Why?'. Because the learners need may not always be met by modules (paper and pen).

We are quite fortunate to have teachers who have shown resilience and passion while at risk because of the CoViD19. It is a common understanding that "We should not be left behind." But how are we realizing this context? How do we ensure that learners learn not just the bare minimum? I guess that in the darkest of times, teachers and students should shine the brightest.

If there is one thing that we lack today to be able to deliver instruction at its best, that is time. Given the limited face-to-face set-up, there is a need to maximize learning beyond the four corners of the classroom. One way is to make our curriculum integrative. In doing so, all teachers of a school must come together and sit down to deal with the commonalities amongst the subjects.

Music and arts can be integrated to English as they are forms of communication. Creativity, mastery, and competence can be seen as students draw inferences between and among these subjects. TLE, PE, and Health may be integrated to Science. These are practical subjects needing practical applications which are observable in Science. Being able to answer the most complex yet logical questions is what Science is about. Filipino and ESP are ideal subjects that may be employed in Araling Panlipunan. These subjects make use of the Filipino language at its medium of instruction. The main course is to be

able to make use of the values and content to show appreciation to our motherland. However, Math, having different set of disciplines will remain a singular subject without any integration with other disciplines.

In the process of integration, there may be various approaches that may apply such as interdisciplinary integration, multi-disciplinary integration, and thematic integration. Interdisciplinary integration refers to the fusion of subjects/ disciplines in accordance to their commonalities and synonymies. Whereas, multi-disciplinary integration refers to the possibilities of fusing subjects because of their context and content. Thematic integration pertains to the meticulous alignment of topics per subject depending on the chosen theme per month, per quarter, or per semester.

Whatever is ideal may be applied, so long as the subject delivery will not be compromised and the learning of the students is not at stake. It is prime that educators and curriculum developers take risk in the time of crisis. Not only problems arise during a conundrum like a pandemic but also opportunities to grow and chances to improve.

Will you remain seated while the rest respond to this? Choose.

References:

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