

THE ROLE OF MATHEMATICS TEACHERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by:

Rodester T. Duerme

Teacher I, Mariveles National High School - Poblacion

21st-century education is the major contributor to developing a country's economy and workforce. Education promotes creativity and innovation among the youth to train them with the knowledge and skills required to be ready and competent in the real world. Additionally, education aids in boosting overall economic growth. One of the 21st-century education goals is to produce highly productive students adept in communication, have high-order thinking skills, and masterful use of information and communication technology. According to Snowball et al. (2013), higher-order functions are likely to support the construction of mathematics skills, not the reverse.

Teachers need to prepare and equip themselves with 21st-century skills to teach effectively. Teacher preparation is crucial because they are vital factors that underpin success in building the 21st-century skills of the learners. Information and skill transfer to learners is efficient if teachers are competent. Unfortunately, teachers can also be a culprit to students' low competence if they are not well-equipped with 21st-century skills (Carlgren, 2013). In addition, teachers play a crucial role in keeping up with the progress of education development. Therefore, teachers must understand and be willing to change classroom instruction to suit 21st-century learning.

Teachers' professional development must be a priority. They can upgrade their skills by attending related programs offered by the Department of Education and other relevant institutions. Establishing a support community can also play a role in sharing relevant experiences and best practices. The district may inspire them to do better in molding the designers and builders of the future.

Mathematics teachers need to be well-equipped with 21st-century skills to confidently face and overcome the challenges of globalization. Mathematics teachers are also expected to contribute significantly to various factors responsible for improving this country's education system. Therefore, learners' acquisition of 21st-century skills will likely help ensure the nation's vision and mission. This is only possible if teacher education programs produce effective, efficient, and caring mathematics teachers that will drive for the betterment of the education system (Ali & Maat, 2019).

References:

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