

THE SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF: ASSISTING IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF EDUCATION

by:

Mary Jane M. Santos

Administrative Officer II, San Ramon Elementary School

In the course of school operation implementation, the major focus of attention is on the implementation of education and the achievement of quality results. This may mean that students who are studying are able to perform learning tasks and garner good grades. As for those who have graduated already, this may equate to students pursuing college as higher education or putting up a business, or maybe becoming skilled workers in consonance to the three-pronged exits of the Department of Education.

Having such great concerns, teachers are the usual allies of students in achieving their success. Teachers are the common symbol of schools and education. They are at the forefront in the fight against illiteracy.

But teachers are not the only persons responsible for ensuring that education is properly carried out. Yes, teachers are responsible in making students learn how to read, how to write, how to count, and how to think. But teachers will only be able to perform such feats if they are properly assisted not just for their teaching capacities but their well-being while performing their primary duty inside the school. Here is where the support system comes in. A school support system is a group of people who are not teaching but provides support in such a way that teachers are able to duly comply with their mandates of educating the youth. They are working in the backstage of a play so to speak. This may include the clerks, the accounting unit staff or even the maintenance crew.

One might think, what do these people have to do with education? Teachers for that matter are also employees. For them to be able to perform their duties as facilitators

of learning, they need to be secured and compensated properly. They need help with matters inside the school other than handling students or teaching in front of the class. The clerks support them by giving them reminders of their assignments other than teaching. The accounting unit staff ensure that they enjoy the benefits of being a teacher and the maintenance crew makes sure that the classroom where these teachers hold their classes are suitable and comfortable in the best way possible.

It's about time that the school support staff time also gets enough credits for the success of the school itself. The school will not be able to operate smoothly without them. They are a vital part of a school, not just some random people chatting until it's 4 in the afternoon.

References:

National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments, (2022), School Support Staff, <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/training-technical-assistance/roles/school-support-staff>