

FEATURE ARTICLE: THE WISDOM IN A CHALK

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With all the most recent and advanced technological products readily available from the cheapest to the most expensive prices, education has also moved away from the traditional methods of teaching and learning that many of us were taught and learned.

Our curriculum even goes with the trend by inculcating information, communication, and technology (ICT) in many skills across learning areas.

Such changes are inevitable and positive. We really need to adapt to the changing world, so our learners will not lag in the global competition. Technological knowledge and skills are critical for landing high-paying jobs with little effort.

In education, teaching and learning have become easier and seemingly effortless with LCD projectors, LED/Smart TVs, printed sheets, online quizzes, assignments, and many more. DLLs and presentations have all become downloadable – as easy as a flick of the finger. Teaching has somehow become very technical.

However, as we enjoy and benefit from the latest and most innovative ways of life and of teaching, there are times when we also need to retreat and go back to the basics.

There are certain skills and knowledge that are best learned the traditional way: through individual demonstration, face-to-face discussion, and personal lectures and interactions.

Teaching and learning, as they have become more technical, have also become distant, hollow, and superficial.

It wasn't like when we used to have the chalk, whereas the teacher teaches, he or she still gets to look at the class; thus, the teacher would even say, "I can see you behind my back!" After writing on the board, the teacher would roam around the class to check if the learners really could see what was written on the board, if everyone was sitting properly, or if pupils were copying the board work properly.

There was that kind of personal touch in the way the teachers used to teach. The chalk has served as the tool to get the class into the lessons. As traditional as it may seem, such teaching and learning have proven their effectiveness over the years.

With technology these days, some teachers tend to forget to add a personal touch to the technology they use—the way we did with chalk.

When we let the lesson be presented on the LCD projector, make sure we watch with the learners, so when there are things, we have to modify or elaborate, we can do it at once lest we forget.

Allow us to watch the movie with them when we ask them to do a movie review on Smart TV.

When we ask them to do an online assignment, let us make time to give them their results personally, so feedback can be more personal and heartfelt.

Some teachers download DLLs and class activities that are not custom-made for the kinds of learners in the class.

It is not bad to maximize the use of technology in the classroom; in all our activities and engagements, however, let us not forget and neglect to pour in some personal insights, touch, and concern as we use such products of technology so that learning for our learners will still be personal, more practical, and more lasting.

Let us not forget the wisdom in a "chalk".

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