

THE ESSENTIALS ARE TRULY ESSENTIALS

by:

Jethro M. Nocom

*HT-III/ OIC - Assistant School Principal II,
Balsik National High School*

With the resumption of the face to face classes after the uncertain period of the lockdown, the battle cry of the Department of Education is to focus on the essentials.

Literacy, Numeracy and Scientific knowledge, this has been the primary purpose of DepEd as we see various data that show the discrepancies of the students when it comes to their competencies on the essentials. Learners are finding it difficult to adjust in the difficulties produced by the pause in the educational system brought by the Pandemic.

The aforementioned scenario has been the fuel of DepEd and its partner institutions in focusing on the basics and the essentials. The learning competencies have been tweaked and school leaders are challenged to ensure the improvement of the literacy and numeracy level of the students.

Reading and numeracy programs such as Phil-IRI and PAN are strengthened and interventions are being monitored.

It is a meaningful stand by the Department as the various learning competencies will never be achieved if the basic literacy and numeracy of the learners are failing.

No matter how good the strategies may be, or how great the instructional tools or materials are, if the foundation of the learners are not solid enough to serve as needed prerequisite for them to learn the topics that they are currently facing, they may fail miserably and be frustrated in the teaching-learning process.

This poses another problem for teachers – ensuring that students are equipped with needed literacy and numeracy. This is another requirement to achieve an ideal learning process for teachers. Although as ideal as it may get, teachers must offer remediation needed by students to ensure that they can cope with the demands of the lesson that they are generating.

Learning is never simply about the lesson, learning should be centered on the learners – their needs, interests, demands and preferences.

If teachers fail to do so, the gap in learning will never be bridged.

The discrepancies will continue.

The learning will never be meaningful.

References:

Smile Foundation. 2022. Smile. Bridging post pandemic learning gaps through need based

intervention. <https://www.smilefoundationindia.org/blog/bridging-post-pandemic-learning-gaps-through-need-based-intervention/>