

PASSION VERSUS PAY; AN EDUCATORS DILEMMA

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Are you a tech savvy educator? Familiar with the application TikTok? If so, I bet you've seen tons of TikTok videos uploaded by some former teachers, by our colleagues. They have been allowed to venture outside our department and will be able to practice and gain teaching experience in other countries. A plus factor for development of skills in a new environment, in addition, a promising foreign currency pay check.

Tempting? Yes for some. But a dilemma for many.

If you have been five years or more in the field of education here in the Philippines, it is not new for you how has it been more challenging when the pandemic aroused. Exhaustion, stress and a lot of negative thoughts affected not only teachers but effects were felt by all.

The passion and love for teaching, especially the space in our hearts by the learners who have been dear to us and our beloved family which allows us to endure these challenges that sometimes drains us and makes us feel if it's still worth fighting for.

The increasing demands of the bills and other expenses due to economic crisis affected every one of us, most of all, those who have been living through a limited budget to surpass famishment in daily basis. This is one concern of not only teachers but many workers across any field. The fast phase price increase of basic necessities in the market and the slow approval of the demands in incentive and salary increase burst the number of labour force finding a greener pasture for the sake of their family's needs, specifically their parents and their kids.

You love your job, you are fulfilled by the learners whom you have seen positive changes when it comes to learning but you are taunted by the fact that your bread and butter will not be able to provide any emergency demands in the family especially for those who are breadwinners. Your parents are starting to age, their health is at risk. Our children are fast growing, their needs are too. You are caught between what you love to do and what your love ones need. Practically, you don't want to go outside the country. Filipino families have strong bonds. Homesickness is not a joke. Mental health is at risk. But the needs to survive by your family, their health assurance, needs and other necessities are on the edge.

At the end of the day, the decision is for us to make. Will you risk being away from your family to provide them a much comfortable way of living? Or will you be with them and pursue your passion in this field labelled as the noblest profession? The answer is within... your future is for you to decide.

References:

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan