

CHALLENGES FOR TODAY'S EDUCATORS IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

Jezalen R. Dela Cruz

Teacher II, Pablo Roman National High School

The educational setting within the Philippines changes constantly, and there are numerous associated challenges for its teachers today. Educating today's new generation, known by their digital fluency and vast learning needs, really presents a strong challenge that a teacher must successfully overcome to create effective teaching and learning. Among such challenges are related in incorporating rapid technological breakthroughs. With this, the newest generation of students is very experienced with technology, whereas most teachers are not.

Technology in the classroom requires constant professional development and support, which is not always readily available (Magsino, 2020). Therefore, the teacher has to learn to navigate a virtual classroom and use educational software and digital resources in lessons, keeping in mind the engagement and motivation of students.

A new generation of students comes with a sea of learning styles and needs. Differentiating instruction to cater to these diverse needs makes it difficult for teachers, especially with a large and overcrowded classroom. The one-size-fits-all traditional approach is ineffective, and thus the educators must use several teaching strategies to cater to each student (Bautista, 2019). This calls for a lot of planning, preparation, and resources, which involves consuming much of one's time and may even be overwhelming at times.

New things, be it a new curriculum or some updated policy, frequently appear in the educational system, which creates the other challenge before the teachers. Teachers have to adapt to such changes through continuous professional development. The

teachers must update themselves with the latest teaching methods, assessment methods, and standards in education, among other things, while at the same time maintaining their daily responsibilities. Such continuous adaptation can be exhausting and impacts the quality of instruction (Lopez, 2021).

Poor funding and old school building facilities and deficiency in teaching supplies are some of the concerns that the Philippine schools face in their educational establishments. These inadequacies would further deprive teachers of the positive benefits of an excellent quality of education, brought about by good learning environment. Modern technology, books, and all other teaching material are considered for effective teaching. However, the same is not possible in many schools.

Teaching the new generation in the Philippines is a unique problem. It begins with adapting technological advancements, addressing diverse needs, and coping with scarcity of resources within the classroom to name a few. Educators play an extremely important role in the process of shaping the student's mind. It will thus be very significant to address all the support mechanisms, training facilities, and key resources for educators who, even with these pressures, strive towards inspiring a whole new generation in learning. As such, all these issues that are presented need to be met so that more effective and equitable education is attained for all individuals.

References:

Bautista, M. (2019). "Differentiated Instruction in the Philippine Classroom: Challenges and Opportunities." *International Journal of Educational Research*.

Lopez, M. (2021). "Challenges in the Philippine Education System: A Teacher's Perspective." *Journal of Educational Research and Practice*.

Magsino, R. (2020). "The Role of Technology in Enhancing Teaching and Learning in the Philippines." Philippine Journal of Educational Technology.