

THE CHANGING ROLE OF A TEACHER

by:

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As stated by Dorothea Dix, the duties of a teacher are neither few nor small, but they elevate the mind and give energy to the character. The 21st century has changed the roles of the teachers. Teachers are expected to do multiple tasks efficiently and effectively. Just like their learners, they also have to discover a lot of things by themselves.

Besides teaching as their calling, teachers also had other tasks and sometimes, through these tasks, they also discovered that they have the skills and passion for it.

According to Marzano, Pickering, & Pollock (2001), they would be considered instructional specialists if they study research-based classroom strategies; explore which instructional methodologies are appropriate for the school; and share findings with colleagues. Teachers may also be curriculum specialists because they are following, unpacking, and revising most essential learning competencies.

In addition to this, teachers can be considered as resource providers both to their colleagues and their learners as they share instructional materials, lesson plans, worksheet plans, individual learning monitoring plans, and other resources needed in classroom instruction and evaluation.

Also, they can be classroom supporters to their colleagues. Blase and Blase (2006) found that consultation with peers enhanced teachers' self-efficacy (teachers' belief in their own abilities and capacity to successfully solve teaching and learning problems) as they reflected on practice and grew together, and it also encouraged a bias for action

(improvement through collaboration) on the part of teachers. This leads to two-way learning.

Furthermore, teachers may also be considered as a mentor. If there is a new teacher, one can guide or accommodate him/her as well as help other colleagues who are having difficulties in classroom management, teaching and learning process, and executing the programs needed for evaluating learners.

Teachers can be school leaders, too. They can be a leader of their own grade level, school, and different associations from district to national level.

Lastly, teachers are learners themselves who keep on discovering things such as their own strengths and weaknesses, how can they be effective and efficient teachers, how one must teach, and what methodologies are needed to deliver quality education.

All in all, teachers are flexible, talented, multitaskers, and dedicated. Truly a jack of all trades. Teachers are both teachers and learners themselves. If they have knowledge about a certain topic or idea, they will share their knowledge about it. If they don't know anything about it, they can also be learners who ask for assistance or they can discover and learn it by doing it by themselves.

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