

MORE THAN PAPERWORK: THE HEART AND SERVICE OF DEPED NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL

by:

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When people think of people working in a school, the image that comes to mind is most likely that of a teacher, teaching and inspiring his or her class of students to dream, work hard, and achieve. However, there is also a group of people whose works are not seen in the frontlines, yet their efforts greatly contribute to the maintenance and facilitation of our very own schools, and they are none other than the DepEd non-teaching personnel

Their works may seem dull, uneventful, and monotonous, for it mostly involves reporting but those who have been working in the school for a long time, already know that the works they do matter, that it all is about people, it's about solving problems, and it's about making things better.

From the earliest hour of the day, even when people are still sleeping, these people who work in the school, wake up, and do their part in letting every learner have a bright day. Those who work in the school have made it their goal to open their gates to visitors and parents, provide the school's records to whosoever is in need, and last but not least, to ensure that all reports and financial needs of the school are properly documented and filed accordingly for the next day's transactions. These things they do, may seem mundane and boring, but in reality, every action they take contributes to a learner's success, and the smooth sailing of the school's operations.

The best part of these things they do, is that all of the works they do is in the name of love and hard work.

Behind all those boring tasks and responsibilities, is a student's hope and dreams, a teacher's needs and concerns, and a parent's trust and peace of mind. Behind all those records is an opportunity for learners to get the help they need from the school. Behind all the requests processed by them, is a way for teachers to be more productive and efficient in their profession. Behind all the smiles they show at the front desk of the school is an assurance that you will not be disappointed with the services that they render. Non-teaching personnel experience lots of challenges in their daily lives. From answering a parent's inquiry, to catering to the needs of the school's administrative office, from processing a request to helping a student find what he or she needs, from following new protocols to meeting deadlines, their jobs can sometimes be overwhelming and tiresome, especially during enrollment periods, school events, and report periods. With all that being said, they still smile while doing the right things for people, and helping them, one way or another.

However, aside from doing clerical and administrative support, non-teaching personnel are also the backbone of most if not all school activities.

They do whatever it takes to make sure that things are done accordingly, they listen attentively to what the parents have to say, they are the friends of teachers, in terms of school-related matters, and they are the doers and helpers of the school's administrative staff, in terms of implementing programs and policies.

They do it all, without expecting much in return. And this is the definition of public service itself, serving people without expecting much, if anything at all, in return, just so the people you care about can become better, and live a better life.

The most amazing thing about the things non-teaching personnel do, is that they always think of ways on how they can make people happy, how they can support the students,

how they can make the teachers' jobs easier. Whether it is through a warm, friendly smile at the front desk, or a timely response to a request or a well-documented and accessible record for the teachers to use in their classes, these things all add up, and they all make a difference, for the people and for the school itself.

Behind all the fun, exciting activities in the school, the neat and organized reports and records, and the school events you witness, are a group of amazing people who do their very best, in order to help you, and others, one day at a time. That is why we should all learn to appreciate them, for all the things they do, the sacrifices they make, and the difference they bring, to their community, one school at a time. Education has become more important than ever before. While all the teachers dedicate their lives to shaping the minds of the youth, these amazing people do everything they can to make sure that the schools can provide a helping hand to those who need. All of them, the teachers and the non-teaching personnel, of the Department of Education, work together in making a learning environment that makes children feel safe and confident, that makes parents assured and supported in their child's journey towards education. This, as well as making teachers happy and productive in their profession. As the DepEd continues to work on providing all learners with a quality, learner-centered education, the non-teaching personnel play a major role in this, as they dedicate their lives and efforts to the welfare of the people in their community. This is why we must learn to appreciate the amazing things these people do, for they are the unsung heroes and heroines of the school, for all the differences they bring, the smiles they create, the opportunities they open, and the assurance that every child, teacher, and parent feel, every day, in the school. Let us learn to appreciate the works of DepEd non-teaching personnel, for they serve selflessly, and through them, we have come to learn that public service is truly a virtue that we all should aspire to achieve.

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