

Mathematics Instruction in the Public Elementary Schools in the Municipality of Balayan

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Abstract: This study aimed to assess the level of teaching performance of the elementary mathematics teachers in terms of communication competence, curriculum expertise, instructional organization and planning, classroom management and assessment of pupil learning. The descriptive method of research was used with a questionnaire as the main data-gathering instrument. The data revealed that, most of the teachers handling Mathematics subjects are female. Most of them were graduated with a bachelor's degree but some are still pursuing graduate studies. As to their competencies, most of the mathematics teachers are very satisfactory in terms of the communication, curriculum, instructional organization and planning, classroom management competencies. Teachers performed well inside the classroom.

Keywords: Assessment, communication, competence, curriculum, instructional organization, management.

1. Introduction

The fundamental elements that make educative process possible and achievable are the teachers, the learners, and the conducive learning environment. Without one, there would be no teaching nor learning of the desired objectives. Teachers serve as the prime movers of the educational wheel. With this, teachers carry a big obligation in the classroom. One reason is that, all learners depend on them. Everything the teachers say will have an impact on the learners. Teachers have the responsibility to know the learners in the classroom. Arroyo (2001) stated that the best way of reducing poverty and providing safety nets for sectors affected by globalization is by means of investing in education and training. Teacher's ability truly leaves a lot to be desired. Teacher should attend to different kinds of seminar-workshop to improve the quality education. An activity is envisioned as means to make teachers keep abreast with current developments and relevant fields' especially in mathematics or at least remain in the threshold of acceptable level of competence. In line with this, effective teachers must know how to use the most of the time available for instructions, plan to manage learners' behavior, and institute procedures to arouse the interest of the pupils. They must be expert with regard to subject matter and teaching methods that will enable them to deliver instruction well. Teachers play a vital role in improving the quality of education. A primary goal

for the school must be to ensure teacher competency in the classroom. Teachers' understanding of content and methodology are important aspects for successful classroom teaching and thus, essential aspects of students learning. Success in teaching career depends on the degree of mastery of the technical and interpersonal competencies needed to fulfill the roles of the teacher. Mastering these competencies cannot be done overnight, this may take up years of thorough practice and learning. The longer the teachers teach, the more technical and interpersonal competencies maybe acquired. Teaching competencies predict effective teaching. These should be demonstrated on the functions of an effective teacher. The most important factors for successful classroom teachers are classroom management, subject matter, knowledge and discipline. Considerable importance is also given to the organization of learning situations and materials for effective teaching and learning process. But as revealed by different researches/studies, the Philippine education is encountering various challenges and problems. It is said that the quality of education is declining. Some of the teachers in the secondary level and college level as well complain about the results of the basic education. Many basic education graduates find great difficulty in many of their subjects like English, Science and Mathematics. Among all the subjects, mathematics is said to be one of the most difficult subjects, because it involves numbers and problems that other people do not like especially the pupils. However, mathematics is one of the most important subjects because all people use mathematics all the time, from the moment people wake up and close their eyes to rest at night. Relative to this, big responsibility lies on the mathematics teachers. If these problems won't be addressed and remedied, there will be continuous decline in the intellectual capacity of the country's professional. These problems should be addressed. In this regard, educators should define the role of teachers in maximizing the use of opportunities to meet the challenges in improving the teaching competencies of mathematics teachers. To be the best and qualified, they should have a high level of teaching competencies particularly in such areas as communication competence, curriculum expertise, instructional organization and planning, classroom management and assessment of pupils learning. Assessing the

current status of education, this particular study will shed light on some of the important aspects of teaching including the competency of teachers specifically the mathematics teachers. In this present study, the researcher is concerned on the Mathematics Instruction in the Public Elementary Schools of the municipality of Balayan Division of Batangas. Considering the thrusts of every school in the said district, the primordial concern is basically developing every pupil the knowledge, the skills, the interest, the habits and the ideals requisite to the realization of his potential. What prompted the researcher to go on with this study is the reality that there were learners who dislike mathematics that's why many of them got low grade in this subject and their performance is not that good. They always say that mathematics is a difficult subject. The researcher believes that the area on instruction must be enhanced because it is not only the school and the curricula that need to be given prominence but also the competencies of the teachers in teaching the subject.

2. Literature review

Dicdican (2007) revealed that pupils' performance lies on the expertise of a teacher. Application of good classroom setting, expertise connote the effectiveness of the teacher to attain the objective of the lesson, the willingness of the teacher to provide varied learning activities to the pupils for interactive/cooperative learning, and the initiative of the teacher to ask questions that develop critical thinking. Fajardo (2003) stressed the importance of training as planned helped in improving individuals' present and future performance of the job. This can be one through varied teaching and learning approaches, methodologies, and techniques intended to influence the learner towards adopting a desired level of knowledge and skills. The benefits derived from training were improving quality of education efficient strategies and more. Bilbao (2006) exclaimed that classroom management is an integral part of the teaching process. It provides a classroom environment that is conducive to learning, such as appropriate time scheduling for various activities and an orderly placement of furniture and instructional materials. A clean and well-

lighted area, together with comfortable seating arrangement, make the classroom an inviting place for promoting interaction and a much welcomed feeling of togetherness. Records of performance are well-kept and reported to keep track of progress. Discipline indicating complete behavior control is well-established. Arellano (2005) mentioned that both students and teachers should work hand in hand in performing their duties well which is based on the prescribed rules of behavior that everyone is expected to understand and obey. These are taught to be necessary because the students are not adults. They need proper direction to stay on task and to avoid classroom chaos. Teachers are expected to observe proper decorum, speak correctly, treat everyone equitably, punish wrong behavior, assign homework, and have a positive attitude. Students and teachers who follow the rules are considered good.

3. Conclusion

As shown by the results of the study, the following conclusion were drawn:

1. Majority of the respondents were clustered around age of 40-49 years old, Female, finished Bachelor of Elementary Education with units earned leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Education.
2. The mathematics instruction of the teachers was very satisfactory as assessed by themselves and the school heads.
3. Teachers performed well inside the classroom in teaching the subject and the pupils like Mathematics as their subject and they participate in teaching process.

References

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