Surviving the multi-grade classroom
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It probably takes one effective strategy for a teacher to survive the very challenging task of teaching a class composite of learners from different grade levels, considering the impossibilities of covering all the work due for each grade level. Every teacher is aware that one strategy may be effective to one learner or a group of learners, but not one size fits all. A skillful teacher therefore needs to be innovative and resourceful enough to come up with a common denominator tool for teaching and learning, making every teaching hour a productive learning experience for the students.

Working as a multigrade teacher does not merely mean following the curriculum but also emphasizes imparting knowledge, inculcating desirable values and attitudes among learners which are the more rewarding frontiers for an educator regardless of the individual differences among the learners.

One public school located within the stretch of Tanay, Rizal was visited on March 16, 2015 by the students enrolled in the subject - Teaching Multigrade Class. The Mamuyao Elementary School, a government-funded institution, houses an approximate of 146 pupils composing of the locals from within the skirts of the area and those from the nearby indigenous community. A large percentage but not dominant among these who attend
school are those coming from the indigenous tribes in the community. It is observed that access to acquiring education and formal school training is a top priority of the local government of the municipality. A particular segment in the curriculum of this elementary school called IP (Indigenous People) Education is intended for indigenous pupils.

A planned immersion activity of the TMGC class successfully materialized. With the concerted efforts of those who extended a helping hand and pledged the aids needed, a meek and humble community of young learners could not help but express joy in their hearts and smiles on their faces for a day of learning worth-remembering by the college students of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College.

The components of the activity focused mainly on education on family life & values, health and sanitation, and art skills and appreciation, among others.
Having been given the chance to show their aesthetic skills, these children proved to be truly genuine and innocent based on their expressions.

Cheerful voices filled the rooms when the pupils were asked to participate in joyful songs during the community singing. There was no place for inhibitions as the lyrics of the songs were sung by the children with all their heart making it a truly touching, inspiring and heart-warming experience.

As part of the educational benefits extended, the TMGC class also solicited reading books, recreation reading materials, and school supplies under its “Tulong-Aral Project”, a sub-concept in the subject. A mini-library was put up to house the solicited books.
Perhaps there is not one prescribed approach, method, or technique to achieve a successful transfer of learning, but a chunk of everyone of these components in teaching carefully consolidated could probably give birth to a new catalyst for learning. Indeed, it’s a selfless and never-ending task to conceive and bring forth to life her products of ingenuity to help build the lives of the learners entrusted to a teacher.