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EDITORIAL:

GROWTH, ETHICS AND EXCELLENCE

Think of one word that best describes the dynamic attribute of our world today. Perhaps “change” would be the word. While change can be something good or bad, positive change results in growth and progress. Individuals, organizations, and systems that grow and excel capture the attention of professionals. This journal issue presents several interesting perspectives on what happens when the potencies of change are harnessed for the good.

Rosario and Obo-Rayos elucidate their portrait of a superwoman who is empowered as both a mother and a graduate student. This narrative inquiry takes one through the stories of seven full-time doctoral women students, capturing their lives through the images and voices of the past as being positive and empowering; voices and images of the present as both positive and negative; and the images of the future as being positive. The reader will be taken to vistas of sensory experiences through both written and pictorial descriptions of the stories.

The recent macro changes happening in the school system of the Philippines have been the focus of attention of various educators and researchers. Medalla and Medalla’s research found how an Adventist school coped with the challenges of a transition to the K-12 system through the support of school leaders. The school growth resulted in teachers’ professional development, higher liquidity, and increased enrollment.

The next two articles are based on studies conducted in higher education institutions. Thomas’ correlational study deals with the factors of Facebook addiction and academic anxiety of students. As technology does have a huge impact on the world today, students grapple with the wise use of it. The study suggests that increased Facebook addiction needs to be taken seriously as it is related to increased academic anxiety.

The next article, the fourth in this issue, is also related to a study in higher education. It focuses on an interesting group of personnel—the librarians. This ethnographic research carried out by a professor, Gaikwad, and her doctoral students—Kingston, Koranteng, Petre, and Sinaga-Nagoy—captures the functioning of a culture-sharing group that makes a huge difference in the

academe. The findings on the service-oriented leadership of the librarians and the open communication and interactions within the group and with the patrons are note-worthy to read through. The librarians also face challenges that they have found ways to cope with.

Obaya presents her study of faith development among elementary school students through a case study design. Since the author claims that studies of this sort are rare among children, this study is a breakthrough. The findings point to the key influencers of faith development in children, such as family background, environment, and participation in faith-developing activities. Providing modeling and opportunities for participatory faith-development instructions are seen as appropriate suggestions.

An interesting perspective on increasing the creativity of students through project-based learning (PBL) is described by Irembere. This theoretical paper takes the interested reader through a description of creativity and the need to develop it at an early age to instill problem-solving skills. The author identifies details of the aspects of PBL as it is operationalized in the classroom and suggests ways that teachers can integrate it with the curriculum.

The article on ethics is another theoretical paper that is a treasure-store of information that both veteran and novice qualitative researchers will find valuable. Written by a seasoned qualitative research expert Wa-Mbaleka, the article takes one through the application of ethics prior to, during, and after data collection. One of the values of this article is its synthesis of ethical practices from several qualitative research authors.

The final article takes the reader through the experiences of working students who became employees in the same private university in Cebu that they studied at. Sagayno's qualitative case study is based on Herzberg's two-factor theoretical framework. It describes the experiences of employees who were, earlier, students at the same university. Both tangible and intangible situations were attributed to their satisfying experiences at work.

As the new editor of this journal, it is with satisfaction that I present this smorgasbord of articles to satisfy your scholarly reading appetite. You will experience the interwoven themes of growth, Ethics and Excellence in this issue. As this issue is presented, I acknowledge the excellent work of the outgoing editor Safary Wa-Mbaleka that has kept the journal flying high. May this journal continue to serve its constituency and be an effective means of knowledge management in the Graduate School of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies.

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