“UNDERSTANDING POSITIVE DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS”

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Since time immemorial we have taught our children how to resolve problems by using violence in the guise of correction and disciplining out of love. Our parents employ the same measure of penalizing us, their children, the same way they were taught that spanking and inflicting physical pain will make children remember not to commit the same mistake again. Somehow, since schools adhere that teachers are the children’s second parent in school, and teachers were also taught to use corporeal punishment and humiliation to make the child learned that what he had done is unacceptable.

In the use of violence against children by those who are most trusted to care for children, parents and teachers, has entrenched violence into our society, without any thought to what the other and perhaps better options exist for educating children.” - Ned Olney, Country Director, Save the Children Philippines”. The struggle is real in the implementation of the Department of Education Child Protection Policy (Department Order No. 40, s. 2012) which enshrine Zero tolerance policy for any act of violence against children in school, including corporal punishment. Though ideal, it is in contradiction with the imbedded form of discipline being practiced and cultured in the Philippines. Largely a Christian Nation, many adhere with the biblical version of posing punishments as form of teaching children to become upright People, “Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child…” - Proverbs 13:24, our own version in Filipino –“Anak na di paluhain, Ina ang Patatangisin”… and the more scarier version: What doesn’t kill them will make them strong”. The most tugging questions are: How do we make the child, or specifically children (average of 40 per classroom) behave? How do we get the students attention to
be interested in academic discussions? How do we motivate 21st Century Learners to basically listen?

Amidst this dilemma the CPP climbed its way as a means of imposing positive discipline among schools in the Philippines. Slow in progress for it is given that even at home this children were taught to listen using reward and punishment which includes threatening and show of force. Understanding Positive Discipline is the key make it as a tool in building a conducive classroom atmosphere and better teacher-student, teacher–parent relationship.

Contrary to negative notions in social media, teacher discussion forums regarding the loss of respect of students to teachers, and teachers couldn’t do anything against misbehaving students, there are guidelines provided on how to respond to common classroom situations using Positive Discipline. With the effort to eradicate the culture of violence in school, Positive discipline is deemed as a more effective way to manage misbehaving students in the classroom, replacing the traditional punishment or rewards for it makes students learn to accomplished what is expected of them as well as learning how to make good choices and be involve in decision making concerning their own outputs. “Teach the child the way they should go, so that when they grow old, they won’t depart from it” –Proverbs 22:6

References:

https://www.positivediscipline.com/.
Ned Olney, Country Director, Save the Children Philippines”.
Department Order No. 40, s. 2012