A MEAN TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR THRESHOLD: ACHIEVING DIGITAL LITERACY

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Digital literacy enables and empowers our Filipino learners to safeguard the threshold of our democratic values.

With the advancement of technology and the rampant use of social media as sources of information, 21st-century learners can easily access a lot of information that, unfortunately, may contain misleading, confusing, and non-verified content.

It has become a serious concern since according to the United Nation Filipino youth comprises 40% of the total country’s population of 85.2 million and whom are among the most susceptible to misleading information, fake news and biased information based on a study conducted by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (Baron, 2021).

PISA’s latest data revealed that the most common digital skill taught at school on par is perceiving the repercussions of creating public information online (Baron, 2021).

The PISA 2018 results further indicated that Filipino learners scored a mean of 340 points in the reading comprehension exam which was way below the [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development] OECD average of 487 points. It was followed by another backlash when the country had deficient performance out of 79 countries in a reading literacy assessment conducted by the OECD in 2019.

Being a public secondary language teacher, I have observed the difficulty of many 10th graders in detecting facts from opinions and biased information from not. Poor skills in detecting propaganda and hidden biases in the information learners exposed themselves
to online affect their choices and decisions. Their choices and decisions affect their behavior, performance, actions, and well-being.

According to the study conducted by PISA, the competencies to distinguish fact from opinion, evaluate the credibility of information sources, and learn strategies to detect biased or false information are vital skills for reading in a digital world. The ability to distinguish the reliability of information is indeed crucial in preserving democratic values.

PISA also stressed that the consequences of being poorly informed lead to “political polarization, decreased trust in public institutions, and undermined democracy.”

DepEd should magnify its drive to spearhead immediate and prompt modifications of the essential learning competencies less emphasize in our present curriculum. Promoting the significance of digital literacy to the youth safeguards them from compelling biases and lies.

Now that technological advancement has been used to protect personal interests that may affect the country on the run, molding people to be wise in detecting misinformation will significantly preserve and protect our democratic values and rights.

References: