A THREEFOLD EFFORT OF HOME-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP IN DEVELOPING CHILDREN’S WELL-BEING

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Schools contribute a lot in nurturing children with necessary skills that they need to learn and feeding them with knowledge that they need to acquire. It is because schools are the ones that provide formal education for children, in able for them to learn different disciplines and develop their capabilities not just as students but also as individuals who are members of the community. Schools prepare them to be productive community members who will soon to contribute desirable changes in the society. But, school alone is not enough to develop children’s well-being because partnership with the parents and the community is very essential for their full development.

According to Ministry of Education - Guyana (2015), through the cooperation and harmonious relationship of the parents and the teachers, students’ performance have greatly enhanced. “It is also said that parent involvement in schools leads to higher grades and test scores and better attendance and homework completion records. Further, getting to know their students' parents helps teachers understand the environment and economic, political or cultural influences that shape students' points of view and behavior and this leads to melodious association throughout the educational process. Established partnership between home and school creates a good impact on the performance of the students because their academic standing and performance can be supervised and guided not just only at school but at home as well. This is also the reason why parents-teacher association is established in every school because communication between parents and the teachers could be a great help to monitor the class performance of the learners. Through this collaboration, problems or struggles that students experience can be easily addressed and can be immediately solved because of the in-touch parents-teacher relationship.
Same goes with school’s partnership with the community. Stella Kemp (2017) believes that schools and community are one unit and partnerships with all sectors of the community are essential to helping children reach their maximum potential. More so, “community collaboration with schools complements and reinforces values, culture and the learning opportunities that schools can provide for their students.” This means that community-school relationship must also be established because as they work together, there would be a greater chance that the students would learn better because the school where they belong to is receiving support from the community.

Community-school relationship can be seen through different programs and activities. The local government may offer free trainings and seminars for the students about disaster and emergency preparedness such as earthquake drill and fire prevention. Forums regarding plant propagation, water sanitation and hygiene and even dengue prevention at school facilities. These can be offered by the local municipality which is a great thing for the children to know because knowledge from the textbooks and learning materials provided by the teachers are not enough. They must also be given knowledge about disaster preparedness, securing health and caring for the environment.

With the union of home, school and community, desirable developments in students’ performance can be certainly notice. Linda Madison (2000) said that “home-school-community partnerships come in a variety of styles and such partnerships build understanding of the education process and are beneficial to the students we serve.” She also mentioned an African proverb that states that it takes a whole village to raise a child. This means that the tripartite relationship between home, community and school could be a great way to nurture children and help them to be developed holistically.

There is an adage which states that “No man is island”, and this could also be true if this saying will be connected to the collaboration needed in supporting children’s education. Here, we could say that “no sector could stand alone” because households,
schools and communities always go hand-in-hand. They are the ones supporting each other in able to achieve a common goal -- to have a better nation. Full support from home and community is highly needed by educational communities in order to attain better learning outcomes because undeniably, education is one of the keys in order to produce empowered and productive individuals who play a vital role in nation-building.

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