ABSENTEEISM: EMPTY CLASSROOM, EMPTY MINDS

by:

Jeanette R. Peñaflor
Master Teacher II, Dinalupihan Elementary School

Learners are the most important ingredient in our daily meal, they give spice in every bit of the lesson and also the classroom is complete with their valuable presence. The Department of Education (DepEd) always looks forward and prioritizes their needs for them to have a quality education and become a globally competitive someday. But they also see many hindrances to achieve this goal, they saw the reported dilemmas that can affect to child progress in school such as malnutrition and absenteeism.

Philippines education system is mostly based upon assumption that the learners should attend the class five (5) days a week. They are required to go to school for them to acquire new knowledge and build their future. But the fact is they did not always meet the required number of days in school and it is really cumbersome. Absenteeism is not a simple problem that can be ignored of the teacher. There are factors affecting the learners that why they tend not to attend the class. However, Obogu (2004) says that illness, financial difficulties, age, social rank, geographical region, attitudes of teachers, weak school management and weather condition can be cause of absenteeism.

Learners’ behavior grounded on physical, psychological and social reason that’s why they are developing negatively. Mervilde (1981) reveals that; family health or financial concerns, poor school environment and transportation problems are all conditions that can be cause of being absent. But the sad truth is, the learners are the one who will suffer in the near future if they continue the habit of being absent. When they are not present inside the four corners of the classroom, they are also missing the opportunity to fill their
minds of knowledge they need. But instead of this, their mind is empty and at the same time they are not aware with it.

Teachers and Administration need to consider that every child has a special need. They need to reach the hands of their learners not to blame but to help them to fill the empty chairs and surround them with a happy vibe. The teachers need to communicate with his/her leaners and motivate them to attend the class regularly. Home visiting is one of the steps to know what the problem of the learner is so we can think the best solution to handle it.

Department of Education (DepEd) assures us with their policy mandate “No Child Left Behind” so the teachers are expected and required to meet this policy so we can have a better leaners in the next generation. Let us help hand in hand to discover and gather every learner in our country to be the best and competitive with their self. Just like Anderson said; Alone we are Smart, Together we are Brilliant.

References:

https://scholars.fhsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1206&context=alj
https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED207157
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234683666_Student_Absenteeism_Causes_Effects_and_Possible_Solutions
https://en.calameo.com/books/004705816a4a3ec2a5207