ABSENTEEISM: MAJOR PROBLEM IN SCHOOL

by:
Aileen A. Manuel
Teacher III, Hermosa Elementary School

The modern day entertainment facilities like television and computers affect the attendance of our pupils in school. The rise of tele-drama or telenovela and anime distract our learners. Even if teachers remind the parents about the time that their children spend in watching television, some parents were unable to discipline their kids resulting to absenteeism. The internet café or computer shops stalled near the school also lead the absenteeism. Instead of attending their classes, pupils prefer to stay in computer shops playing games. They will go home after class hours. These situations are beyond the control of the teachers. It can only be solved with their parents and community as well.

Other causes of absenteeism are poverty, sickness and long holidays. Some pupils are required to help their parents at home during class days while others don’t have anything to eat. Other pupils are sick so they need to be absent in their class, some of them become lazy when they experienced long vacations and holidays.

Boredom and being bullied are other factors why pupils do chronic absences. Bullying comes from video games, TV or even sometimes in their environment. Some pupils imitate the heroes (good or bad) in the popular movies on how they get their goal. They all bully people just get what they want.

Boredom is caused by letting pupils who cannot read to pass using age appropriate progression rather than skill orientated progression. Not being able to read, write and do math in the lower grades will crippling children and creates boredom in the upper grades. They struggle so hard that they give up. They get bored and bullied and become timid that lead to have low self-esteem. They lose their confidence to continue and give up.
Since absenteeism remains a major problem in school, school officials as well as the teachers must find ways on how to convince our learners to stay inside their classrooms and make teaching-learning an enjoyable experience.

References:

Chronic absenteeism: An old problem in search of new answers by Brian A. Jacob and Kelly Lovett - Thursday, July 27, 2017