BACKBONE OF PROGRESS

by:
Jocelyn V. Ramirez
Teacher II, Limay Senior High School

Communication is the backbone of progress and development. It is through effective communication that humanity has reached the heights of success. Now more than ever, great communication skills are sought for, for it opens doors of opportunities especially in the global stage. The important role of communication in innovation and change has also been highlighted in Western and European countries, wherein English is the language used. It is globally recognized that English is without a doubt the universal language. According to statistics shared by the Babbel Magazine of the United Kingdom, it is estimated that about 1.8 billion people or about 20% of the world population speaks English.

Studies have also showed that English is the top choice for foreign language to study in non-native English speaking countries. Because of these, it is no surprise that today, English has become the lingua franca of world commerce and academia, as well as the language of science and technology. That is why, it is nothing short of a disappointment to know that the Philippines slipped from the 20th down to the 27th place in the 2020 global rankings of Education First, a Swiss-based international language training company. At the same time, the country's English proficiency scores placed second in Asia, following the top scorer Singapore. While we still managed to get high scores, this just goes to show that other countries are developing at a much faster pace than us. In a short span of a year, they were able to improve the level of English proficiency in their country. As the global market and
competition gets tighter, our declining performance in the use of the universal language is bound to have negative impacts. All of these just proves why the Philippine Education system must put more effort into instilling the Filipino youth with strong foundation of the use and understanding of the English language.

The Philippines has always been known as one of the best English-speaking country in Asia. Our country has built around this fact and have used it to help boost our tourism, market, and overall economy. In addition to that, one's English proficiency directly affects his or her chances of employment both locally and abroad. It is known that certain employers and companies turn away applicants with poor English skills. It is the responsibility of the Government, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, Universities, Colleges, other stakeholders and educators to help the youth set foot and fight in the global arena. It should be emphasized that English proficiency is a necessary skill for communication that will benefit one's future. We should abandon the idea that fluency and the ability to use the English language is only for a limited number of people, or that it is an indication of one's social status. It is imperative that we address the root of the problem and make it so that students, teachers, and the Filipino people can speak English with confidence much like when using their mother tongue. We should step up the efforts towards developing and maintaining the quality of the youth's English skills and proficiency. Because not doing so is robbing them of their vital abilities to be assets in both the country's and the global workforce.
References:

https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-communication-1689877
https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/careers/soft-skills/communication/
https://www.bartleby.com/essay/English-as-a-Universal-Language-
FKUQBUSTC#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20language%20of%20government%2C
%20English%20was,countries%20have%20declared%20English%20as%20an%20universal
https://www.ef.edu/