FAMILY PLANNING: IS IT A HUMAN RIGHT?

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One of the controversial political issues that the country still faces nowadays is the issue on family planning. In January 2012, the Philippine president Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed an executive order that states the government would provide free reproductive services and contraception to six million women of the island. It made noise and conflicts particularly between the government and the religious sector.

To date, the government has been active in the campaign for family planning as a means to answer poverty and improve lives of the people.

I can still remember the TV 5’s popular commercial song entitled “Inakup, Arekup” which had gone viral on television and was even sang from mouth to mouth by both old and young persons around the country. It focuses on how the little child singing the song also expresses her sentiments about her family and how she had been so sad that she is hungry and cannot even attend her school. It also showed her wish that she could have been healthy and well-taken care of if her family is not that big.

This all happened because her parents never did use family planning.

The commercial clearly tells how family planning becomes a right for every person, and for every child in particular. This is also the campaign ad of the Department of Health that goes with the slogan “A planned life is a good life”. This somehow implies that family planning is not only a choice that all parents should make for the goodness of their lives, but it becomes their major responsibility to plan the family because this is the right of their children.
Family planning is defined as the “activities which enable individuals to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and to select the means by which this may be achieved.” (Wikipedia). This means that anybody has the right to practice family planning and choose the method that they could use.

But if family planning is a right for every parent or couple, it is more on giving the right for any child to have a good life, a healthy well-being and a better education. However, on the side of the church, family planning is also preventing the right of the unborn to live on this world.

Whatever is the stand of the church, of the DOH or of the child singing the song, it is still a must for anyone to respect human rights. All human beings deserve this right. It is something that everybody wants in life. To be respected, to be accepted and to be recognized. Whether family planning is good or bad, we humans are given free will to decide for our lives. We must, however, take responsibility of our actions. We must always consider what is humane. Sometimes it is also our intentions that matter. We do have ultimate motives on the things we do or undertake. We should always go for what is right and what will not harm other people.

There is this old proverb that says, “Excess of anything is bad”. The smaller the family, the better they could share whatever they have. Let our ways be legal and humanitarian. Be more compassionate and we will have an amazing world.

References: