FILIPINO STUDENTS TODAY KNOW LESS ON PHILIPPINE HISTORY

by:
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“Maka-Diyos, Makakalikasan, Makatao at Makabansa”

These are the four core values that must be possessed by our learners today. These values are expected to be taught by teachers to their students especially the spirit of nationalism. Hence, learners today have little to no knowledge when it comes to Philippine History.

It is still very clear to my mind how my elementary teachers gave us questions about history and then tasked us to read our textbooks in order to find the answer. On a daily basis, they would present charts and flashcards repeatedly for us to memorize the facts that we have to keep in mind. That’s how I learned about history, most especially about our Filipino Heroes.

There was a story told by a close friend of mine. She was a Grade 5 teacher teaching Araling Panlipunan to the three Grade 5 sections of their school. She had this pupil from the rambled section who asked her about who the Ama ng Katipunan is. She was so surprised by that question for that is an information that a pupil like her should know considering her age and grade level. Never the less, my friend answered the question politely.

The scenario above only proves how our students today lack sense of NATIONALISM. Who should we blame for this? Is it the lawmakers, the enforcers, the teachers, or the curriculum? In an article published by Louie Checa Montemar, a professor and journalist, he cited 3 major factors that resulted in our students’ poor performance in history. The first is that the government failed to take care of the teacher
training institutions and the public school teachers. Instead of focusing on their main job which is teaching, they are asked to submit tons of reports that definitely took their precious time that is supposed to be intended to the learners.

The second factor that he pointed out is the poor quality of textbooks being provided to the public schools. These textbooks contain questionable information and orientation. Words are also mistyped. Some also pointed out that the books are colonial.

Montemar’s article lastly pointed out that the pedagogy has not been learner-centered. While the K-12 Curriculum states that the learners must be proactive and critical thinkers, it is not the case in the real classroom situations. As a result, they become passive learners instead of being a critical thinker and active learners.

How are we going to mend this growing problem of our nation? Should we just abolish and completely remove History in our Curriculum? As an educator, we should always start with the facilitator of knowledge, the teachers. They need various trainings and seminars about teaching the subject more effectively. The content and focus of the learnings must also give emphasis to our national heroes most especially their notable contribution to our country. Through this, learners will be more aware and knowledgeable about their roots.

As a nation that promotes and hopes for Filipinos with sense of Nationalism, we must not forget our roots. We must always keep in mind their sacrifices for our country. Through this, our young ones today will be inspired to do good, give back, love unselfishly and to love our nation.

References: