GENTLE REMINDERS ON DISTANCE CHEATING:
ADDRESSING THE CULTURE OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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Just because learners have the freedom to choose their preferred learning modalities and that self-learning modules (SLMs) and other appurtenant materials are at their disposal with the appended key to corrections, that does not mean they are free to cheat.

The DepEd constantly reminds parents or any household partner to constantly and strictly monitor their learners in answering the SLMs. And that includes as well, refraining their children from committing any form of cheating since they are not regulated by the teachers.

In a statement given by DepEd Secretary Briones, she called for the parents and adults living with the learners to help prevent dishonesty in the assessment. She also mentioned that even before COVID-19 outbreak, cheating and dishonesty is a major concern among learners. Teachers are also mandated to monitor all the outputs of the learners as they are capable of determining if the learners themselves have answered the activities. More so, San Antonio, DepEd Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction, noted that instilling the value of honesty and other integral values among learners should not solely be vested on DepEd alone; it is everyone's responsibility (Hernando-Malipot, 2020).

Since children are not born with integrity or the associated behavior with it, there are plenty of ways parents, guardians, adults, and elderly people could help teachers in instilling the value of honesty among learners. Among these, are the following:
1. Adults at home should foster or model the necessary behavior so that learners will emulate and practice it.

2. Rules relative to honesty should not be bent at any cost. Consistency is a key to frame your child to be always honest.

3. Though grade is essential evidence of learning, adults accompanying children at home should not put too much pressure on them.

4. Having small talk and constantly reminding the child about the value of honesty.

5. Respond appropriately and immediately on the occurrence of cheating.

6. Help the child boost their confidence and trust in their abilities.

Remember that elementary grades are the foundational years where learners should be taught the core values that would make up who they are in the future – ethical and morally upright individuals. No one knows the child better than their parents and teachers; hence, constant communication between them and the learners would be helpful in building trust and rapport in the educative process.

References: