GIVING ASSIGNMENTS, A TOOL FOR LEARNING OR A BURDEN?

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In the Philippines, it is literally a “Thank God it is Friday” for elementary students at least those students enrolled in public school. Former DepEd Secretary Armin Luistro’s 2010 memorandum has barred public school teachers from giving homework or assignments to students on Saturdays and Sundays. Currently going viral is our President Duterte’s statement which is totally eliminate assignments in the system. In Luistro’s explanation, he said that the reason why he wanted to remind teachers not to give assignments on weekends is that he wanted the people to enjoy their childhood and to spend quality time with their parents being burdened by the thought of doing lots of homework.

This memorandum has gathered different reactions from people concerned, especially from parents and teachers. But the questions here are, “will it improve student’s motivation to learn? or “Is homework an integral part of learning? The ongoing argument about this issue has been in discussion for years. There are parents and educators who just chime in and support this practice but there are also those who still think that giving homework is an integral part of learning. All of us have different opinions about this matter.

As an educator, giving an assignment is an important part of the learning process, but to some parents, assignment is just a burden for their children and it is also useless in a sense that doing the assignment doesn’t even contribute to the learning of students.

What I mean is, For example some parents think that is useless because not all students have the writing skills to make a positive contribution to essays, so it will lead to cheating. How can we say that an assignment is really effective?

My point of view here is, giving an assignment to children makes up for the insufficient time children spent in school. Personally, I give assignments to my pupils just to measure and assess if my students have learned that day. The time spent in school is not always sufficient. These
are always barriers that hinder learning. And one way of coping up is giving them homework, but not too much. What is more useless? The time spent doing nothing or the time spent doing something that is relevant to learning? Not giving students school work at home might them derelict with their studies and be lazy. By doing homework, children can learn discipline since they will have to learn and how to focus and set aside unimportant activities and finish the task assignment to them.

Reference:
GMA NEWS ONLINE (September 17, 2010 9:49 pm)
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