HIGHLIGHTING PROTAGONISTS: ARE BULLIES BORN OR CREATED?

by:
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Witnessing bullying, the bully is always named the protagonist and evil while the poor victim automatically gained the sympathy of everyone and entitled as the antagonist of the story; and that is the norm. But, little did everyone perceive is that there will always be a child inside a tyrant.

Bullying is the power imbalance between two people that involves unwanted and aggressive behavior of the bully. It can be equilibrated to the relationship of the predator and prey in which the predator takes advantage of his power in order to do his ill will and bring forth ill-fated things to the victim.

The manner of abusing powers especially in school is prevalent in Philippines. With the surging cases of bullying inside the supposedly haven of children, school, it inevitably affects the academic performance of the students involved. Bullying is categorized as physical, verbal, cyber and relational and verbal bullying is one of the most cases recorded in schools.

Inasmuch as evil was never born, bullying is not always the sibling of demon. There are studies explaining that even a simple emotional breakdown, sadness or loneliness and problems might trigger a person/ student to act in an aggressive manner. But, most cases, there are children who are abusing the power they have over those who may be physically weak or those who decline to fight back.

Bullying is an inside-school disease that must be eliminated. However, not all form of violence falls under bullying, because there are some instances that when a person hurts someone, it might be caused by an accident. When asked regarding their sentiments after experiencing the wrath of a tyrant, the bullied students radiate negative emotions such as anger, sadness,
embarrassment and fear. And those negative feelings are roots of various negative setbacks affecting the schooling of students.

The role of teachers during these scenarios is vital. Since they are imaged as the supporting characters honing the holistic development of students, they must correct the mistakes of the bullies in a heart to heart talk, the teacher must broke the sprouting horns of the bullied. However, there are cases that teacher’s punishments are just short-term mending agent to the problem; and that is when heavier sanctions are given.

Nobody wanted to know the sides of evil and that is the cliché plot of movie series nowadays. However, that is where the problem continues to upsurge, by neglecting the other side and by just listening to the story and sobs of the victim.

Since bullying contributes a great factor to the academic behavior of students, therefore, school managements are administering solutions to mend the worsening case of bullying in the country.

Since evil is not born, then bullying is a mere creation of mankind too. Similar to every conflict, there will always be rising actions before denouement; and the roots of bad things are the things that must be eliminated.

And in order to eliminate the roots of evil, highlighting the bully’s bad behavior must not be the focus of the spotlight. A warm hug might help soothe their souls; and that might be the time when protagonists can prove that they are not bad at all because they were also once bullied.

References:

Sanapo, Margaret S. (2017) When Kids Hurt Other Kids: Bullying in Philippine Schools.