HOME VISITATION: BRIDGING THE GAP

by:

Janet B. Rodrigo

Orani National High School Parang – Parang

In my six years of teaching in this public institution, I really find it hard to understand why do some students take no effect the importance of education. That some students will come to school regularly; some are just like a sprout that will come and go.

And so, as a second parent to our learner, we are responsible to the betterment of each of our learner. We are responsible enough to build the gap in every part of their life as a learner. As a part of it, we are encouraged to make a move if some of our learners are missing out their daily routine in school.

What do we usually do as a teacher is to visit them in their respective home. If one of those learners were missed the class for several days, we are encouraged to make a home visitation. By doing this, we can obtain information and we can fill in the gap of knowing the reason and validity of excuses why they are missing their classes. You may learn if they will continue coming to school or simply cut it down. These are some reasons why I am conducting a home visitation to my learners for a few years now so for us to know their real situation, their struggles, encouragement and their hope to be heard.

In doing so, some might find it an extra job or task without an additional compensation. Sometimes we need to pay fare for the transportation coming on our own pocket. Sometimes we have to walk a mile just to reach those who in need our presence. Sometimes you can encounter stray dogs that you don’t know if you will move forward or you will just stay still out of nervousness. But at the end of the day,
when you reach their home and face their situation, you can just silently say “this is how it is”. You will learn their reasons, either valid or null, that reason why they take a long time of absence, why they are not coming to school regularly, why they didn’t want to go to school. We expect answers to our why’s. Like they have to take care their younger siblings because both of their parents are out for work, or his/her parents are separated so there is no one to take care of them. Some of them needs to d a job for them to get money not only for their own but also for them to provide food for the family. Others are addicted to computers games and peers that even their own parents are not capable of disciplining them. Some here struggling for financial difficulties because the salary of their parents are not for them to provide all their needs especially when it comes to education. These are some of the answers we gathered as we conduct our home visitations.

But in giving your words of encouragement, can bring hope to them unknowingly. Though there are times you may come out in their houses empty because of the assurance that they will come to school the next day. But deep inside your heart you know that you did what you have to do. Visit, just a simple home visitation had an impact to our students. They may feel the sense of belongingness and they are important, that they are one of those students that are you concerned of. Though not most of the times, you come up with a positive outcome this moment you reach your learner’s home, might create a great impact in their life, may affect their perspective towards education, and may be the only way for them to be understood.

So, I encourage everyone, every teacher not to get tired of your students. Just give them a simple visit and make them feel they are loved. In doing so, we are bridging the gap between the school and home, every student who deserve to learn and reach their goal in life.
References:

https://www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2014/03/10/kp-kilgore.html