HOME VISITATION - IS IT SAFE OR RISKY?

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What is home visitation? It is a voluntary free of charge work for teachers to bridge the gap between school and home for students. It helps in strengthening the home-school partnership in giving a better education for the children.

However, is it safe for us, teachers, to visit our students at home? Based on my own experience, I, together with my wife, visited an eighth-grade student just to know what he is up to for the last few days that he was absent. As I came to the area since it was unfamiliar, I asked some of the residents if they know his house and one of the barangay members approached us and told us that it is unsafe to go to their place since the people there are always fighting, chasing each other with a bolo. So, I asked the barangay member if he could help me in relating the case of my student to their parents. But, he disagreed about going to the place, instead, he told me that if he saw his parents went to town, he would tell them at once. Another story is when I visited one of my eighth-grade students in another section, even though he is living in a remote place, still, I tried my best to reach out for my student who was always absent in all his classes. But as I came to their house, his mother went away suddenly. According to their neighbors, she always runs away whenever a teacher of his son visits their home, mainly because she didn't want to cooperate with the teacher, even though she knew her son's absences. I also found out that her son is a 4P's recipient. Because of that, the parents do not want their child to drop out from school.

Conducting home visitations for the students have some advantages and disadvantages too. Some of the advantages are: 1) fewer number of dropouts; 2) strengthening good relationship with the student-parent-teacher, in such a way that the parents can talk to
the teacher every time they wanted to, especially if it has something to do with their son/daughter’s education, whether it is by text messages, letter or phone call; and, 3) understanding the student's family background.

The disadvantages are: 1) many families are not in favor of this visitation because of their personal reasons and privacy; 2) students are not comfortable whenever a teacher visits them because of their surroundings, same with the examples I cited earlier; and, 3) students need not be visited by their teachers because of their parents' attitude toward education.

There must always be a two-way process of interaction between the parents and teachers to help the students in their school works and activities. Whether it is safe or risky, and we visit the child at home or not, we, teachers must help our students in their studies, and the parents must cooperate with the teachers in giving a better education to their children.

References:

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Why students need teacher home visits

The Christian Science Monitor