HOMEWORK IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

by:
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A classic and a conventional way to refresh student’s minds and retain information from their lectures and lessons is through homework. All of those who studied and are still studying are no stranger to this that we may even call this activity as a companion, a bothersome one. That companion who is quite annoying but tolerable, we prefer not to do anything with him but there are times that we need him. Question: would you deny him or would you keep up with the annoyance? It is truly a love and hate relationship.

Giving assignment is a requirement to most, like giving tests as to it is thought to be beneficial for children and also to their parents, it can develop a bond between them and students are able to retain and learn more with the help of it. But there have been debates whether it is really necessary to give extra work to do in home. It is normal that there are those who are against it because not everyone sees the same angle and because of this opposition it brought a light to the demerits of the said activity. Thus, even though it is widely and constantly practiced, doubt in its efficacy and essentiality rose.

The website lead-prep.org compared to the statistics of Finland and US’ school system’s accomplishment. The said Scandinavian country is known for their educational system that has the absence of homework. In the website’s comparison, they claimed that the northern country achieved impressive feats. Students there have more time to focus on recreational activities they have more time to be creative and be more enthusiastic in learning. The consensus that they compared is the student-to-teacher ratio. In US, specifically in NYC, it is 1 to 24 and it is 1 to 12 in Finland, the ration of the country is half of the big city. But comparing to the NYC’s ratio, the distribution here in the Philippines is usually 1 to 50 that is the unfortunate reality in our public schools in our country. But what is the connection of this census to homework?
Students in Finland is much happier, more creative and more successful that to those our country. It has to do with the ratio and no homework system. Teachers can give more attention and help their students. The approach other their system is also holistic enabling the students to have time for themselves and their families. Here in the Philippines, most of the students spends 9 hours daily in school that some even consider it as a job.

Following that note, one may question, “So is homework bad? Is it better to not include it in our educational system?” the answer is no, it not bad but the world is not just black and white. Though homework is just like extra-curricular, in one way or another it can be of use. We just have to keep the amount of it at bay. Homework can be a way for children and their family to bond, but we have to take note that not all houses are homes and not all relatives are family that can rear a good environment and support children. Rather than a good way to bond it may backfire to some and just be burden.

Another thing to keep in mind is that success of students do not depend on their homework, it is just a factor of it. It is reliant to the kid’s enthusiasm in learning. Attention, affection and acceptance from their family, teachers and peers play significant role. It is quite a bit of a problem in Philippines’ public schools considering the densely packed classroom, the 3As that a student can gain or receive is little, as their enthusiasm decrease, the retention of lessons decline as well, in this case, homework is may be a great solution.

In the end, balance is what is really needed. The holistic approach of Finland towards homework in their system is something to consider following. Other factors are also needed to be improved. Not everything we choose must be absolute, sometimes it’s better to choose the middle ground when it comes to dealing with a bothersome companion.
References:


