HOMEWORK: NOT TO ELIMINATE BUT TO PROPERLY REGULATE

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I once was a child, a student. Every one of us did. Our perception and understanding of homework were all the same. It is a task given by our teachers to do it outside the school, mostly at home. It may be writing, solving problems, reading, drawing, projects, etc.

A second-year teacher in Texas Brandy Young sent a letter home to parents saying there will be no formal homework and that homework will only consist of work that students did not finish during the school day.

For the past few years, No Homework Policy is one of the controversial issues not only in Philippine Education but also around the world. Teachers, parents, students, and educators had a different understanding, perception, ideas, and opinions regarding these issues.

Countries as Finland spend only 2.8 hours per week for pupils’ homework, Japan for 3.8 hours per week, South Korea for only 2.9 hours for pupils' homework. Yet, these countries' education is successful and at the top concerning academic skill.

On September 18, 2010, in Philippine Education, DepEd released a Memorandum No. 392, s. 2010 stating Guidelines in Giving Homework or Assignments to All Public Elementary School. This policy cited that no homework during the weekend for elementary students DepEd defended the approval of the policy that kids ought to learn to pay additional quality time with their folks.
(Aaron, 2018) Cited that only public elementary are directly under the memorandum. Nevertheless, it is also possible to include private schools if they wish to. DepEd said that no homework on weekend’s policy brings a positive and affirmative consequence to the students.

The directive is pushing recently from a proposal from the parents who came up that private schools be included in the “no weekend homework policy” by DepEd. Several private school parents are pushing for its implementation in their respective school but there are some to disagree.

A group of private schools disagree with it. They are saying that it is more important that children have assignments during weekends. They do not approve of the controversial policy because children without homework during weekends might just expend their time on gadgets, which might cause more harm and destruction to their wellbeing. They even cited social media’s bad image resulting in cybercrime, cyber addiction, and depression.

With homework, the students are obliged to focus more on their studies. However, DepEd defended that having this directive or policy; the children can spend more time with their families.

The Director of the DepEd Bureau of Elementary Education, Yolanda Quijano, said during the time of the policy’s implementation, “All we would like is that the children ought to conjointly fancy their time throughout the weekends with their folks while not the matter of getting an excessive amount of schoolwork”

No Homework Policy also trended on social media. A piece of news stating that there is an Executive Order for No Homework Policy for All Student Level wherein President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed. According to this trended issue, the objective of this policy is to promote a full life balance for students wherein teachers were not allowed to give homework to students of all levels. Teachers who will not implement this
Executive Order will fine (Php.50,000.00) fifty thousand pesos and imprisonments for up to one year. This issue emphasizes that students need to rest and have a balanced life, as students spent so much time in a school project, activities, examinations, etc.

However, President Rodrigo Rua Duterte denied that there was no Executive Order for No Homework Policy at all student levels. Besides, he did not sign an executive order about the said NO HOMEWORK POLICY FOR ALL STUDENTS LEVEL and he clarified it as fake news. Thus, he added that anyone who caught spreading this news would be in prison for one (1) month to six (6) months and fine up to two (2) million pesos.

As a parent and teacher as well, I still believe that homework is still beneficial for students. Not just for the student to practice their skills in different aspects but also to teach them to be responsible and make a study by their habit.

In today’s, where social media is stealing everybody’s time, I still believe that homework can serve as a good quality time for the student and his or her parent. I, personally bond with my kiddos with their homework. It reminds me to have time with them and it makes me feel responsible. I am sure lots of mommy’s out there felt the same way that homework could be a sample of quality time with them.

As a teacher, the only thing that I can help with this controversial issue is to minimize giving homework, minimal, but not letting homework be out in a student’s lifestyle.

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