How much homework is enough?

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Homework is a set of tasks assigned to a pupil to be done at home. Everyday pupils are given homework. Sometimes more homeworks are given on weekends than on weekdays.

Teachers give homework to reinforce the skill learned in class. Answering more questions about the lesson enables the pupils to retain more facts about the lesson and makes the skill more developed. In mathematics, repeatedly answering an operation or a process assists the pupils to remember every step easily. For content subjects an assignment provides better retention of the facts, details, data and information.

The importance of homework cannot be denied. Does very few homework provide the same effect as numerous load of homeworks? Which is more effective? The very few homework our pupils get or the numerous load of homework they are given? What amount of homework is appropriate for our pupils?

According to Harris Cooper in his writing entitled “Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement?”, published in September 23, 2006 in Opinion, Campus, Working @ Duke; Most educators agree that for children in pre elem to Grade 2, homework is more effective when it does not exceed 10-20 minutes each day; older children, in grades 3-6, can handle 30-60 minutes a day; in junior and senior high, the amount of homework will vary by subject.... Many school district policies state that high school students should expect about 30 minutes of homework for each academic course they take, a bit more for honors or advanced placement courses.
The amount of homework depends on the grade level of our pupils. The younger the pupil the less time he must engage in his/her assignment. This is due to the fact the younger children have shorter attention span and less patience in doing homework. An overload of homework may develop negative traits or behaviors towards schooling.

Here in the Philippines the Department of Education had created DepEd Memo No.392 s. 2010 which bans the giving of assignment on weekends. This memorandum wants pupils to enjoy their childhood and spend quality time with their parents which will lead to stronger family ties.

Pupils with special needs should be assigned homeworks appropriate to their capacity and abilities. If homeworks given to them do not seem interesting, the homework may end up half-finished or even undone.

It is still entrusted to the expertise of the teacher to determine the amount of homework to be assigned to pupils. Nobody knows these pupils better than the teacher herself. A teacher’s daily interaction with her pupils enables her to know her pupils’ needs and capabilities so her decision on the length of the assignment suits her pupils best.

References:

Cooper, Harris. 2006. Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement? Retrieved from https://today.duke.edu/2006/09/homework_oped.html, June 1, 2018