HOW TEACHERS CAN COMBAT CYBER BULLYING

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With the cyber age comes a new advancement in abuse: cyber bullying. Cyberbullying is the use of digital technology to offend, humiliate, threaten, harass, or abuse somebody. Cyberbullying is not exclusive to other countries; there are documented cases of it happening in the Philippines.

The question now is how do educators prevent cyberbullying? There are various articles educators can read to educate themselves on how to combat this unseen threat, but perhaps the following can serve as the baseline steps in addressing the issue.

Understand new technology and social media. Teachers should be up to date on how new technology, particularly, social media is being used by students. Learning how it is used for cyber bullying allows the teachers to design safeguards and instruct their students on the proper use of social media.

Teach students on the permanency of their actions in the internet. Think before you click is not just a slogan, it is also a warning. Anything you post in the internet can live on indefinitely through continuous download and upload. Informing the students and teaching them to consider long term effects of something as simple as a tweet can prevent cyberbullying.

Reach out to students showing signs of bullying. Although the bullying is digital, the effects on students can be seen in the real world. Teachers must be sensitive to the signs of bullying and be able to communicate with the victims.
Address the issues with the parents. Teachers can only monitor so much, as such it is important that we explain cyberbullying to the parents as well. Addressing the issue alongside parents can provide victims with the help they need and prevent future scenarios of cyber bullying.

The digital age is a gateway to learning. And as educators, it is our goal to provide education in a safe environment.

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