HOW TO INSPIRE CHILDREN AT-RISK FROM DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

by:
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“I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside. Teach them a sense of pride…….” keeps echoing as the song plays by Whitney Houston. Such a very meaningful song to make teachers come alive in this school year. “Back to School” is already here, another milestone to face and make differences in the lives of another generation.

“Education is one of the cornerstones of development, particularly in a country where majority of the population is of school age”, says Troy James Palanca in his published article dated August 27, 2015 in “On Schools and Survival-A look at dropout rates in the Philippines”. But how would the Philippine education system reach the bedrock of this evolution when children are faced with the risk of dropping out from school due to a number of reasons in which most of the time are not their preferences? Given a choice, these children would stay and continue their school days.

As cited from wikipilipinas.org, the Drop Out Reduction Program (DORP) defined a “dropout” as a student who has stopped attending school before completing the prescribed level of education within the specified school year. Why do they stop in the first place? What could be the reasons of small children in their primary years to quit schooling? Home-related factors like support from the family, inspiration from educated and working citizens within the family that was supposedly would serve as an inspiration, financial, social and emotional needs of children are just a few of the main factors why a child would continue going to school. Children who are reminded constantly of the importance of education in life stay believing and dreaming of keeping the education alive. Children find a second home in school when it is built with love.
and fosters a child friendly environment. This is when the role of the teachers step in......

How do we inspire children from dropping and reducing the rate of drop-outs each year? Children go to school because they enjoy being around with their classmates-playmates. They look forward to everyday’s new learnings -writing, reading, counting, drawing, performing, singing, dancing, reciting, group activities, leading, even cleaning in school are being taught. They find these tasks very challenging, so no matter how big or small assignments are given to them during the day would make them stay and come back everyday. So what could have happened if one day you miss one soul greeting you “Good morning, teacher!” Won’t you wonder where this pupil could be? What is the next action if within three days the same pupil did not report in your class and there was no advise of the whereabouts of this child? As the adviser, you may want to check on your Anecdotal Records and look for the address and contact number to find out where to locate this boy or girl. Home visitation is very favourable on both sides. It is always nice to see and learn the culture of this child in person. From time to time home visitation makes a lot of difference in the life of this family who are prone to welcoming absences and worst to dropping out from school. Do teachers really have to do this? Yes, it is not only included in the job description but it is also a duty as second parent of all pupils to learn their well beings.

All schools must welcome a functional DORP teams in order to control the possible drop out rate that threatens the ratio of population in every school. Target the possible candidates who are in need of guidance from the start and never leave it unnoticed. In the end, it is still in the hands of the teachers that relies the future of the next generation. Take courage and “find your strength in love”, as the song goes.
References:


en.wikipilipinas.org/index.php/Drop_Out_Reduction_Program_(DORP)