ILLITERACY HINDERS SUCCESS

by

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“Education is the key to success”, cliché as it may seem, but this is a generally accepted fact that has been proven ages ago. Education has been a major stepping stone for those who had achieved way more than what they dreamed of. Thus, it is promoted widely in the campaign known as “EFA” or “Education For All”. Such campaign has been the mainstream in education for several countries up until now; resulting to a depreciation in the percentage of illiteracy.

Illiteracy is a wide-spread virus that corrupts many nations. According to a study conducted by UNESCO (2015), not only is one fifth of the world's adult population illiterate, 100 million children are not attending primary school. With the premature exposure to illiteracy, it is not a surprise that it is one of the major problems not only in the developing countries, but also to those in the developed countries. High levels of illiteracy are hindering attempts to erase the world of poverty.

Illiteracy is also not a stranger in our country. Even though reading and writing is one of the most essential skill, majority of our fellowmen remain illiterate. In fact, it is one of the chief problems that is being faced by different succeeding presidents. According to National Statistics Office (2013), the Census of Population and Housing stated that 97.5 percent or 69.8 million of the total 71.5 million persons aged 10 and above were literate in 2010, which was 5.2 percent higher than the 92.3 percent in 2000. Undeniably, though poverty is being lessened and lessened as time flies, the total eradication of it is still far from reality. There have been a lot of effort to promote literacy done by the government, different organizations, or even private individuals. “It is through literacy that one is empowered to interact in his community and realizes his worth, what he can do and eventually make him do things that contribute in sustainable development of his society,” said Department of Education’s Literacy Coordinating Council (2014).
Illiteracy among adults increases present and future socioeconomic vulnerability, and is a significant factor in the reproduction of such vulnerability through children. Illiterate persons face greater obstacles in terms of social insertion. They are often disrespected and not given much value in the society, not only on a personal level which includes social inclusion difficulties, precarious work, high rates of disease, but also within the family considering child nutrition, hygiene, health and school. At a societal level consisting of lower productivity, high health care costs are also end results.

Illiterate adults face serious employability issues, given their low level of knowledge and expertise. This is attributed to lack of formal schooling, caused either by an early departure from school to enter the labor market or the loss of time to form ability to read and write.

According to Kofi Annan (1997), the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, “Literacy is the road for human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.” Therefore, if we are to ensure the success rate of every individual, we must first eradicate illiteracy – ending it will be the start of something new.
References:


