INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROMOTES GREATER RESPECT TO HUMANITY

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Our Constitution promotes the dignity of human life even upon conception as children have their right to be born together with all the other human rights bestowed upon children.

The family being the basic unit of the society is the very first to look after the needs of the child and to protect the same child from harm – of all sorts.

As the children grow older, they enter into a bigger world where they have to commune with relatives, friends, and the whole community where they live. Eventually, these children go to school where the community further extends to classmates, teachers, and other school personnel.

At school, as children are exposed to the bigger social environment, they will begin to see characteristics which may be similar or different from others. They will tend to see the differences of people. It will not be a problem if everyone will just see each child as different on his/her own. Individual differences will always be noticeable. However, if a child will seem to be differently abled or with special learning needs, there goes the somewhat like a ‘stigma’.

Some people may look at them like a disease or a misfortune and are given attention which can negatively influence the way such children would see themselves.

With the Inclusive Education that the Department of Education is strongly trying to implement in the full sense of the Deped Order, it will lessen the chances of these
children with special needs to be treated negatively. They will be part of a class where general education is provided, and they will be given enough chance to develop socially.

Of course, there will be extra preparations and orientation for those who will handle learners with special needs in a regular class. They will have to be provided with the necessary skills and knowledge as to addressing the special needs and circumstances they might experience through the regular class. Teachers will have to be trained and equipped with the strategies and techniques to help them facilitate learning for such differently abled children while they are immersed in the regular class.

The class itself will also have to be given enough orientation to understand and accept people who children with special learning needs because though they are different, they are still like every child who needs love, affection, and acceptance. Their being different does not mean they are to be isolated. Their being different will have to allow them to live normal lives – to play, to learn and socialize without being judged and misunderstood.

It is good the most schools now are adhering to inclusive education. While having SPED learning centers help provide special care and attention for differently abled children, it is still better to allow our learners with special needs the learning environment where they mingle and play like everyone else in the class – where the people within such environment are able to accord equal respect to everyone.

We already have a lot of people who had their own special learning needs (while young) but have become successful in life because they have been provided with the love and respect which they truly deserve which allowed them to flourish into their full capacity.
Reference

Deped Order No. 72, s. 2009

Inclusive Education as Strategy for Increasing Participation Rate of Children