IS CULTURAL HERITAGE STILL RELEVANT IN EDUCATING FILIPINO STUDENTS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM?

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According to Eric Zerrudo, professor at University of Sto. Tomas- Center for conservation of Cultural Property and Environment on the Tropics, in developing economies, there is tension among past heritage vs. Progress, history vs. Economy and soul vs. Stomach. Development, modernization, westernization and globalization are now the battlecry of many educational institutions in the country. To them, heritage is just a thing of the past. Anything related to historical existence, education and its economic value is considered a non-profit venturing scheme.

Heritage is defined as anything of value from the past that gives meaning and identity to the present and inspire future generation.

Some priviledge filipinos able to visit the statue of Liberty in New York U.S.A. , Eiffel Tower in Paris, France or maybe the Inca ruins in Peru, in our hometurf, they hardly know the place where the Battle of Tirad Pass is. It’s obvious that their sense of identity is missing. How can we teach students to love our country, when in fact we are not familiar with some of its historical identity?

Some students today don’t even know Bagumbayan as Luneta. Others are not interested to visit museums because they consider it as a boring place. Some are most interested to hang-out in malls or recreational parks. Educators should inculcate in minds of young students that historical places mirrors the identity of our nationality and therefore should be visited, studied and preserved so that the future generation will also reflect on them and realized the importance of our country’s heritage.
To be able to inspire our new generation, we should let students realize the significance of knowing, loving and preserving our cultural heritage. We should value our post to be able to live at present and the distant future.

References:

Eric Zerrudo, UST Professor Center For Conservation of Cultural and Environment on the Tropics

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