JUSTNESS AND SINCERITY
By: Elvira B. Sawi
Teacher III in San Ramon Elementary School

Being true is to remain just and sincere at all times. This has always been part of the job of a public school teacher. Every decision and action of an educator should be guided by justness and sincerity which truncated from honesty as the basic value.

According to Ched Congress Scholar (2015), justness means an impartial decision of conflicting claims; a fair determination of a problem or situation requiring action. Sincerity, on the other hand may be defined as a state of mind which is truthful, free from hypocrisy or deceit. As applied to public officials, justness requires open-mindedness, sincerity and humility. You have to have an open mind before making a decision so that it will be free from prejudice and an honest and humble mind disposed to admit a mistake and to correct it. An unjust decision is perpetuated by intellectual pride and mental dishonest. Discrimination is caused by religious or political affiliation, regionalism or social status. Favoritism, on the other hand is caused by family relationship, or by any above mentioned considerations.

Honesty in the field of education is being reiterated in the country through the banners we can be seen in schools with a content, “Honesty is the best policy.” This is to show the importance of being just and sincere in every action that we do. Those banners are not only signage but a simple reminder to us teachers that exercising such virtue will let the clienteles realize how we live, how we teach and how we communicate to others. Teaching is leading people. This is where justness and sincerity arise to build the character of the young generation.

Honesty starts within ourselves. As the sayings stated, “We cannot give, what we do not have.” As teachers, it is their responsibility to mold the students to become better individuals. Likewise, “Values are not taught, they can be caught.” If they don’t do honest acts, how will they convince the students that being honest is indeed a virtue to be possessed by a righteous man. Engaging oneself in dishonest practices will only let a person live in fear and hypocrisy.

As stipulated in Republic Act of 6713, officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and the underprivileged. They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest. They shall not dispense or extend undue favors on account of their relatives whether by consanguinity or affinity except with respect to appointments of such relatives to positions considered strictly confidential or as member of their personal
staff whose terms are coterminous with theirs. It is therefore the responsibility of the public servant to practice honesty in everything he does to gain public trust.

Dishonesty comes not only on the big matters but also in the small ones. Honesty is reinforced by this verse from the Bible (Luke 16:10) — “Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones.” Using government resources for personal gain, discrimination and favoritism among children are some forms of dishonesty in the educational field. School is supposedly a home not just for wealthy children but also for poor, slow learners, and clienteles with disruptive behaviors. It is in the hands of a teacher to make those children become as one individual, an individual who does not favor anyone, an individual who is true at all times and an individual who is just and sincere.

References:


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