K12 BASIC EDUCATION: A CALL FOR FUNCTIONALLY LITERATE INDIVIDUALS

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The series of revisions on the Philippine’s educational system especially on its curriculum is very beneficial, this is to ensure that our educational system is relevant to the needs of the people and society as stipulated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

On the onset of the 21st century, the goal of our education to develop or produce literate individuals was transformed into the goal of developing functionally literate citizens. Our graduates must not just be a literate individual who are able to read, write and count, but instead they must be able to read, write, count and comprehend which is a manifestation of a meaningful learning.

The Education for All (EFA) National Report 2015, DepEd defines functional literacy as having the ability of or skills in communication, critical problem solving, sustainable use of resources/productivity, development of self and sense of community, and expanding one’s world vision. On this report it revealed that 1 out of 10 Filipinos is functionally illiterate, this is one of the problems of our educational system that we need to address.

This goal was about to realize on to the implementation of the K12 basic Education. This time, the educational system focuses on the performance of the students rather on the memorization of facts or rote learning. In order to provide meaningful learning, educators are mandated to use variety of instructional aids and activities that gives more emphasis on the performance of the students where they are able to meet the highest level in the revise blooms taxonomy which is the creating.
However, despite of the effort of the agency it remains that teachers are facing the challenge on how to improve the academic performance of the students. In relation to this, DepEd encourages teachers to conduct relevant studies or action researches to look for a viable intervention addressing the problem. The use of modules as primary source of information for the learners contains different activities that allow them to have a sense of independent learning, since the duty of the teachers is just to facilitate. However, on the observation of teachers, most of the students don’t meet the competencies required and one of the possible reasons is the ability of the students to comprehend even they are able to read the text written on the modules.

The relationship of ability to comprehend to the academic performance of the student is indisputable, that is why the department is continuously looking for a possible solution that could improve the quality of education in order to produce quality graduates.

Indeed, the concern regarding functional literacy must be addressed by the Department of Education, but it requires the cooperation of the parents who served as the first teacher of their children. The motivation and support that might be provided by the parents is significant in order to make the student become more interested in learning.

References:
