KNOW YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS: - YOU, MEN, RIGHT.

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You as a Man have every right stated under the Law, but even long before the Law, we already know that we have our rights as man. It is intrinsic and essential, it is something that we long for long before we knew it exist. But what do we exactly know and understand about Human Rights?

According to a Survey conducted by The Center for Research and Development in Education of the Philippine Normal University on Human Rights Awareness of Secondary School Students in the Philippines, an average of 96% of the respondents, in all variables (gender, ethnicity, type of school, geographic classification and region) have heard or known human rights. But how many do understand it?

Rights could mean so many things, you can ask ten people and you’ll probably get ten different answers, but then according to Oxford dictionary it means “that which is morally correct, just and honorable”, I once asked a student of its root word and got an answer that it is from the word “right” or correct and then they had a realization that rights are things that should be done right, what is correct, straight and what is good not just for ourselves but for other people as well. Although sometimes being right becomes subjective, however if the principle of “majority wins” would prevail, what is right would mean what is good and correct for the majority or “Common Good”. But even though it may vary we now have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the Majority had set and agreed upon to be strictly followed and use as Guide, to avoid subjectivity.
If Human Rights was already defined, like the right to Education, if everyone has the right to Education then why is it that a glaring nine percent or almost 1 out of 10 Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years old are not in school? If everyone has the right against slavery, why do we have 2.1 million child laborers aged 5-17 years old in our country? 95 per cent of them are even in hazardous work and Sixty-nine per cent of them are beyond the minimum allowable age for work but still exposed to hazardous work. Why? Because of the word “You”, when we think of Human rights we immediately think of ourselves, solely ourselves, completely forgetting that by the word “Man” in Human pertains to “Men”, to every human person. We are so focused on ourselves that we could not see that the rights we have are the same rights other people must have too. We overstep and sometimes we exploit. We are given the chance to take advantage of our Human Rights when other people are not aware of theirs. That is the problem we as Teachers and educators could possibly address. Because as innate and intrinsic as our hunger for rights may be, some are still ignorant to what Human Rights there is for each and every one of us. The challenge nowadays is the awareness and upbringing, let us raise a Society that knows the true meaning of Human Rights. That it is not all about YOU, it is for every MAN to know and do what is RIGHT.
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