LGBTQ + RIGHTS AND REPRESENTATION WITHIN SCHOOL PREMISES

by:
Rosanna M. Medina
Orani National High School – Parang - Parang

In basic point of view there are only two distinct gender qualifications. But now more that ever the line that draws that viewpoint blurs. Although it is undeniable that homophobic stereotypes are still ingrained in many people especially in a country of Catholics and Christianity. But the times are changing to a better era where people are more open minded and acceptance for the LGBTQ+ increase exponentially.

Some milestones that shows the chip on the iceberg is that several schools within the Philippines practices gender equality and are trying to break gender stereotypes. School admirations are more open to the topic of gay rights and needs. In a school in Visayas for example, they have installed separate restrooms for the LGBTQ+ members of the student body and faculty. It is a compliance to the need of space and privacy of the LGBTQ+ people. In QC there is a city ordinance that instates the installment of ‘all gender’ bathrooms where there will not be gender discrimination and anyone can use regardless of their preference. It may look rather simple and miniscule effort but it is a huge step to the right direction especially for the LGBTQ+ people. According to many ‘gay’ people, restrooms are the most dreaded part of being ‘gay’. Like what most of us know, they are what is in between, a man in a woman’s body or a woman in a man’s body.

Restroom are also the farthest place for comfort since many of the harassment and bullying that gay people experience and underwent were in those places. It is a catalyst of discrimination. A piece of the root of the enormous problem of bullying of LGBTQ+ members of the society. That is why it is crucial for schools to set the standards and example to help with the eradication of these incidents. After all it is with the school
campus that young members of the community learn how to treat their fellow human beings. And whether people like to admit it or not, the Gay community is a huge part of the fiber that comprises they entirety of the school population. That is why it is important that they are given the same respect and the same opportunities as ‘straight’ people. In fact, the gay students were usually the face of the crowded most of the times, leading their fellow classmate and schoolmate in programs and activities. They are as skilled and as full of potential as the next person, so why treat them differently.

Some may look at the equality as a form of encouragement to turn ‘gay’, so they spite the very idea of it. Is it wrong to show compassion and to treat people with respect? Especially within a place where educated people reside and work? It is not a neon sign that says ‘turn gay’ it’s a proof of humanity and a reflection of education, because no truly educated people would discriminate someone just because they choose to be themselves and love whoever they want. Being ‘gay’ is not a disease that needs curing or isolation, it is a reality that needs to be faced with an open mind and a judgment free hart.

It is with Educators that the initiative to break gender stereotypes and discrimination should begin. It in us that our students reflect their perception. Be a good example and set the correct response. Share the pride. Wave the rainbow flag.

References:

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