Linking the School and the Community
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O’Keffe (2011) in his web post started an African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child.” This is also true in the Philippine setting. The school is not an island that can just simply stand alone separate, isolated and distant from the surrounding society where it is located.

This proverb stresses out the importance of schools being connected with the society. From the local barangay unit up to the provincial government offices, the school must establish connection. Why so? It’s because that the school itself must become visible in all aspects of the society. The school is an integral part most responsible in providing the training ground of our society to function properly. If ever that the school can’t provide the education the environment where it is situated demands, then the school loses its credibility of preparing the youth for the realities of life.

On the other hand, communities will not be able to achieve sufficient work force and leaders if the school itself is lagging behind. This calls for a hand-in-hand collaboration and cooperation in ensuring that the society thrives to contribute to a developing country.

Mitrofanova (2016) in her web article states that there should be a cohesive partnership between the school and its stake holders. The partnership may involve the use of school or neighborhood facilities like covered courts, sound systems, even human resources. These would come in features like mentoring, outreach programs, volunteer assistance, and shared responsibilities in planning, implementation and evaluation of programs of school and the community as well. It also involves partnerships with the industries, business establishments and institutions for the purpose of internships and in-service trainings.

Molding the society is not only the sole responsibility of the school. Offices, people and establishments around it must also give their share of support to the youth in providing learning environments which are not just found in the four corners of the school.

This can only be achieved if both the school and the society can work harmoniously. This means that the barangay officials and the local government officers must have constant and unwavering communications in addressing the needs of the students. There are issues of the society which the school can provide assistance like concerns in smoking, gambling and road safety. These are same concerns of the school as well. In turn the school also has concerns which the community
may cater. Issues like students cutting classes, mischiefs and brawls. These are instances that the community security and neighborhood members can dole out support.

It is important that the school and the community be one in the objectives of helping the youth become responsible and productive citizens.

References:


Yelena Mitrofanova (2016), Building Community-Schools Relationships, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Nebrasca Extension in Lancaster County, retrieved November 24, 2016 from http://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/communityschools.shmtl