MOTHER TONGUE AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

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The Philippine Educational System changes from bilingual to trilingual through Mother Tongue as medium of instruction. The K-12 program introduces the Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) explicitly in Kindergarten to Grade 3. It aims for the active participation and engagement of the learners.

Licunan (2010) claims that using the first language or the vernacular helps the students learn better. The first language will serve as springboard in learning the second language which lead to a better learning.

Moreover, Luistro (2011) posits that local and international studies show that use of learner’s mother tongue or the language used at home is the most effective medium of learning. It is a strategic way for children to be familiarized with foreign language upon the children’s entry into grade school, the learners lose interest in their studies because there is a barrier between the language they usually use at home and in school.

It implies that using Mother tongue could improve the performance of the learners because they could easily understand the medium of instruction. Learners can easily connect with the topic given and manage to express their ideas and concepts. In this way, learners perform well in the school.

Empowering the used of their first language at home develops the learners’ listening, speaking and reading skills. The teacher gets the attention of the pupils if they understand the instruction and meant of the teacher when he/she is teaching. The learners will listen and engage themselves.

In addition, learners develop the ability to speak when they are not hesitated to convey their thoughts and views using their native language. They find it easy to communicate with others. It will be difficult to talk something if you don’t have the mastery with the language you are using.
On the other hand, using Mother tongue is a gateway for developing the learners’ ability to read. It serves as a bridge to connect with the Filipino and English Language. It gives them confidence and learning to decode the meaning of symbols, prints and words.

So, Mother Tongue as medium of instruction helps improve the teaching and learning process.

References:

Licuanan, P. (2010). Students learn better when mother tongue is used starting where the children are. A collection of essays edited by Ricardo Ma. Duran Nolasco, et al. Published by 170-Talaytayan MLE Inc., Quezon City, Philippines