Of Service

by:
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Education has been considered a vital stepping stone to achieving triumph. Though the world has seen personalities who did not finish college like Steve Jobs, the man behind the enormous victory of Apple Inc., and Bill Gates, one of the richest men in the world, and was tagged as “Harvard’s Most Successful Dropout” along with many more, but are extremely successful, it is irrefutable to say that an educated person has a better chance of succeeding in his or her chosen career than a person with scarce education.

Hence, a crucial duty is being performed by the front-liners of education – the teachers. They can either construct or destruct someone’s lives. It is through their words a child is inspired and to an extent, directed to a certain path. However, not everyone realizes the sacrifices a teacher has to do especially in a third-world country like the Philippines. There are deep-rooted dilemmas which continuously trouble teachers like lack of conducive classroom, materials, support from government and etc. that they resort to partaking an amount from their insufficient salary just to provide students learning for a day.

Regardless of the perceived transgressions teachers’ experience, many college students still enrol in education program. To top it all, many education graduates want to enter public high school to teach in. This is contradictory to Qatar’s educational system in the recent years. The schools in Qatar have been suffering from a high turnover of Qatari teachers that is thought to be due to a loss of interest in the teaching profession and to the attraction of other forms of employment. In response to this alarming situation, the system was thoroughly examined. Gonzales, Brown and Slate (2008) suggested that attrition of teachers can be caused by disrespect from the administration, students' lack of discipline, and low salaries. The situations in Qatar and in the Philippines seem
relative however the Filipino teachers’ dedication is quite notable for even despite adversities, they still choose to teach.

Despite the booming number of aspiring teachers in our country, teaching profession has still been looked down by other professions and at times, even by the society at large. Multiple studies were conducted on this issue and results have been indistinguishable. One concrete example was of Sithulisiwe Bhebhe and Zodwa Gcinaphi Nxumalo in 2016 in Swaziland where they delved into the teachers’ views on teaching profession. One answer from an interview stated that “The society views teachers as people who do not have money, hence the teaching profession does not have money it is for poor people”.

On a positive note, nonetheless, the main conclusion of the study still affirms the belief that teaching is the noblest profession and that teachers are perceived as valuable humans in the society. As a recommendation, the researchers expressed that remuneration of teachers should be to the value of work done by them. Also, the study also suggested that media should look after the privacy of teachers’ salary. Lastly, paper works must also be cut off.

Garon (2013) in her article “Why do people view teaching as a 'B-list' job?” shared that whenever she introduces herself to a group of people, she would be asked what does she really want to do and why did she end up in this kind of profession given that she is smart. She concluded her article with a notion that the profession must get the respect it deserves to appease the American educational crisis.

With all these things being pointed out, it is, indeed, offensive on the part of teachers that their bread and butter is seen unprofitable and they were viewed below average at some points. But there is not a profession that is as nurturing as teaching. There is not a professional that is more inspiring as a teacher.
These individuals want a better future for the society, and there must be people who should be toiling for that and they opted to be the ones.

References:


