POOR EYESIGHT FACTOR FOR POOR PERFORMANCE

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Visual learning is said to be the largest and most common mode of a child’s acquisition in learning, most probably the primary sense the child use in all kinds of executing activities. The Child’s eye serves as the foundation in literacy and learning at the early stages of development. Through this, we can clearly decipher that having poor eyesight may lead to the child’s slow pace of acquiring and at worst, may not perform well academically. Eye problem are rarely perceived as one of the causes of child’s inability to learn. Thus, an insufficient awareness about this may cause blindness and may ruin every child’s future.

According to the recent study of Department of Health (DOH) in the year 2017, there are already two million people nationwide who are blind or suffering from poor vision. They estimated over 332,150 people in the country that are bilaterally blind while the current number of persons with bilateral low vision has already reached 2,179,733, most of them are children. With this growing numbers of eye impairment in the Philippines, it may lead to serious setback to the economy in terms of productivity but mostly, in terms of achieving standard education. Students who reported to have visual impairment may not give any further actions because of poverty and lack of financial credibility to check their eyes or even buy eyeglasses. With this case, we can state that some students are unknowingly deprived to give their full potentials because of hindrances in improving their own skills that may cause stagnant learning.

Moreover, aside from the difficulty in reading books and passages from the blackboard, students who have poor eyesight have shorter attention span because eyes
are linked in learning. Their cognitive skills are also affected because the eyes cannot stimulate clear images to pass on our brains. Also, it can affect other senses like hearing and such, making it hard to focus and acquire the lesson. Children with this complication may also have a hard time concentrating causing a feeling of exasperation. Thus, all of these causes may lead to student uninterested in learning.

Cabello (2016) stated, an official of the health department said that one-fourth of the pupils with eye problems had amblyopia, an eye condition which the child fail to see and can do normal activity. It may start during childhood and if not promptly treated, it may reduce the activity in both eyes and can lead to blindness. Another factor of the eye problem is the error of refraction or EOR. The great prevalence of EOR among children was confirmed in the DOH vision screening in 2014, which reiterated similar findings by the National Survey of Blindness in 2004. These procured conditions are prevalent in most cases to child’s health.

While there are lots of factors in having poor eyesight, there’s also lots of way to keep the child’s eyes healthy since we are now blessed with the recent technologies. We can now treat or correct the child’s vision through eyeglasses or contact lenses, and with the assistance of the health government officials and non-government organizations, the dim future of the children in the Philippines will starts to lighten up and the quality of education they will soon to take will most probably enhanced by their willingness to learn and contribute to the society.
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