PRESERVING SOCIETAL CULTURE IN SCHOOLS

by:

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Culture has been the fundamental learning institution of our country. Culture has set the foundation how our citizenry think and adapt to the environment and society. It is very important that students learn culture. It is a means of preserving our heritage, our identity as a Filipino.

This is one of the main content in the teaching of Aralin Panlipunan. The AP subject intends to establish the identity of the student by providing concrete and regular exposure to the culture of our society. This gives every student a sense of pride of becoming a Filipino.

There are plenty of ways of inculcating the culture in our subjects. Sadly, in our modern time and age, it seem that even if after so much efforts that the Department of Education, primarily in the AP Department, in preserving our heritage by means of education, our culture is slowly being diminished. The over exposure to technology, gadgets and the World Wide Web has influenced our students. The internet has surpassed the level of impact our schools are trying hard to achieve for the past years. What can be done to tip the scale?

We can’t simply ban electronic gadgets at school. These may provide additional help in the development of our students. Technology has been an integral part of the human evolution. It is here to stay. What can be done instead is to reinforce the development of culture inside the school.
Culture is endowed to every individual by the environment. The society dictates the norms that the person may follow or disregard. By way of exposure to how other countries behave, as accessed and presented by the internet, the culture of the student change. They adapt to what they often see and forget what they have learned. One good culprit to blame here is the colonial mentality where some Filipinos still believe that what is “imported” coming from other countries is better that what is our own.

The effects of technology can be managed. It only takes a little inclusion and integration of the school and the community.

One good example is having the culture of the community approximated inside the school. This can be done by creating small scale assemblies where the students are allowed to have a culminating activity that provides the avenue to exercise traditions or practices that reminds us of why we are Filipinos. This is a very good way also of preserving heritage especially to those who are living in the up lands where the indigenous people are concentrated. Their specific traits, traditions and rites can be done in the school so as to keep their customs intact, alive and remembered. A simple assembly in the afternoon to exercise cultural activities will be beneficial to the students in keeping their identity preserved.

Modernization is a part of the evolving world. Change is the only thing that is constant. But these does not mean that we are to forget everything we once had and take a new personality. We can embrace change yet still holding on to our identity of being true blood Filipinos.
References: