READ TO FULLY HEED

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Today’s world offers tons of activities that keeps people busy. Over the years, various sports, social gatherings, travels across borders, even engaging in studies to improve oneself had made humankind adept. All these activities have somethings in common – they all provide information and experience which is an essential aspect in people’s lives. Indeed, the need for these continues to progress as society underwent immense change. Information and experience are not only acquired through first-hand experiences, it can also be through reading, a simple yet beneficial task that is often seen as underrated. Many challenges outweigh the desire to read in the course of people’s lives throughout the years. However, with so much more to know and learn in this era, the need to be up-to-date is of utmost importance. New ideas, concepts, culture, places are discovered through reading. It is a journey that begins as you open the very first page and ends as you turn the last one.

Reading is the exercise for the mind – whether for academic purposes or just for pleasure. It opens the world through the eyes of the readers. It sharpens the mind as it grasps every information. One key ingredient to reading is the ability to comprehend. Reading is merely decoding the words into sounds, but with comprehension, it is decoding the words into a more meaningful information. It is one of the most critical activity that is encountered by every person, since it is taught and encouraged at an early age.

Even as the world revolutionized with the flourishing of the internet, reading is still the foremost provider of information. E-books and audio books are added to the usual printed books and magazine collections; providing abundant information to
everyone who can access it. According to a Readership Survey last 2017 conducted by the National Book Development Board, the percentage of adults and youths who read printed books are at 76.75% and 84.99% respectively, while those who read e-books have 11.83% and 23.98% and audio books have 3.58% and 15.08%. Thus, Filipinos still prefer to read printed books, despite the advent of modern technologies. Reading is still deemed as a vital part, even in the busy lives of adults and in the frisky ways of youths.

However, in the recent statistical report conducted last 2018, out of 79 countries, the Philippines ranked the lowest in reading, as well as in Math and Science, in the Programme for International Student Assessment. Paris (2019) emphasized that this was alarming not only to the Department of Education but to the Philippine government as well. Performance in school and a students’ socio-economic status has strong relationship. Thus, the report recommends educational interventions.

Francis Bacon once said, “Reading maketh a full man.” This cliché has been thought as an overstatement for the longest of time, but looking beyond this statement, it has become truer. Information acquired from reading nourishes the intellect and nurtures the imagination making people more and more dexterous in the 21st century livelihood. Reading is, and will continue to be, beneficial throughout the years.

References:

