On July 5, 20201, Education Secretary Leonor Briones requested a public apology from the World Bank for its assessment of poor learning outcomes among Filipino children. According to Sec. Briones, the data was released without following the process by the World Bank saying that if they are going to produce a report on a country, they should let the country know first. There was no warning; it was immediately disseminated to the media. Moreover, Sec. Briones claimed that the World Bank's report was based on "outdated" worldwide assessments, despite the fact that she believes the World Bank is a partner in strengthening the country’s education system.

The report showed the country’s terrible educational situation based on three multicounty assessments: PISA, TIMSS, and Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM). According to the World Bank, poor learning results were seen among students in the Philippines based on the three evaluations, with more than 80% falling below the minimum levels of competency expected of them.

In that case, Sec. Briones believed that the World Bank should make a public apology because their report was based on outdated data, such as the Programme for International Student Assessment, which revealed that Filipinos performed poorly in reading, mathematics, and science in 2019. The country has been humiliated and degraded. Aside from that, the World Bank broke the process by failing to notify first the Department of Education about their study. It was unclear who establishes the protocol or whether the World Bank or other international entities must adopt it.
On the other hand, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, schools in the Philippines have shifted to distance learning, which consists of a combination of online classes and printed learning modules, in response to President Rodrigo Duterte's directive suspend face-to-face classes until a COVID-19 vaccine is available. That being said, parents play an active role in guiding their children through modular sessions under the distance learning system, which presents a challenge for students who do not have someone to help them learn at home or whose parents are unable to guide them owing to a lack of understanding.

With this incidence and the reality that today's education is indeed difficult in the face of a pandemic, we may see these conditions as a challenge, as a constructive criticism to improve the teaching-learning process.

Reference: