STUDENTS-AT-RISK

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Students-at-Risk. Students-at-Risk of what? Of dropping and of failing?

Students-at-Risk of dropping and failing are students who may possibly stop studying and probably fail for many reasons. Family problems, attitude towards studying, lack of interest/distractions, child labor, early marriage, distance of home from school, and illness are some of the reasons why they drop and fail in their studies. True enough these are the reasons. Easy to click which one is the reason. But have we really explored and understood what happened behind their dropping and failing?

Undeniably, family plays a big role on our success or failure in life. It is with them that we wake up each day and with them that we get inspiration to walk out of our houses and make greater steps of accomplishing something. A child steps out of his house dressed with optimism, hope, support, and love will go home with dreams fulfilled. A lot of distractions surround our learners. Social media causes a lot of conflict and significantly distracts a learner. In the same manner that he is wrongly motivated of the importance of education. Parents send their children to school as an investment on their old age. This Filipino mentality must stop. Parents up bring their children for the sole reason of love. Sounds too sentimental and emotional cliché, but that is what it must be.

Though, it is definitely inevitable that children must not forget to repay the parents. Monetary wise, it is impossible. Money can’t pay the love parents unconditionally gave to their children. But to send them to school merely to have some sturdy wall to heavily depend on in the future, is a big no. Pressure and overdependence bring no motivation but a burden child carries heavily on his shoulder.
Child labor? Why are they allowed to work in the first place? Where does our government partake here? Isn’t that children must be in school? Why are their families allowing them to work instead of spending their time learning in school? Lack of money to send the children to school? Poverty? Those aren’t children’s main problem anymore. Parents have to do their obligation. Another Philippine society illness. Poverty is always the root cause of our country’s major problems. But to explore deep into the source of these never-ending problem our country faces, isn’t it all roots out to Filipino mentality of “Juan Tamad” attitude waiting for the guava fruit to fall right into his mouth? Lazily waiting for blessings to come instead of stretching out his all means to earn money for his everyday needs. Instead of depending on family members or relative of an already married son or daughter? Relying for the money sent by his mother or father, even a sibling from abroad?

And why mainly blame teachers for the dropping and failing of the students? Government should start looking at the importance of the family in forming good citizens of the country. Children already have a set of values and molded personality even before they go out and start schooling. Community, and school as part of it is just one of the venues where children can learn. Family, government and community should take part in hovering productive and well-refined citizens of the country.

A child who doesn’t need to work for the family, also doesn’t need to stop studying.

Early marriage. Why do teenagers dare themselves entering early marriage? Why are they tempted to go into something they know at the very beginning would cause them no good? What prompted them? Again, the answer is so obvious that it is actually painfully slapped on our faces. We know the answers. And yet, why do people blindfold themselves of the reality? Because it is easier to run than solve a problem that requires them to sacrifice. Problematic teenagers look for shelter. They are searching for what they cannot find at home. Sadly, by entering to early marriage provides them momentarily of what they are yearning for. In the end, they will realize that they are just repeating the
same cycle their parents have coiled. Re-walking the same paths their parents have paved. And just when they see it, it’s too late.

Distance from school certainly causes children to stop. Already weary of the disrupted family they have, tired of the household chores and looking after the younger siblings, children can no longer walk a distance just to attend school.

Children need and deserve to be sent to school. Parents should not forget that. That is the basic inheritance parents can leave them. Basic and yet, of great importance. Parents should stop the meager thinking that nowadays, education is just a waste of time. That one can succeed even without finishing education. Maybe true in some cases, for success must also be twined with good attitude and optimistic disposition in life. Frustratingly, if this is the kind of ideals parents feed their children, how do you think children would look and deal on acquiring education?

At school, student-at-risk of dropping and failing. In life, child-at-risk of a fulfilling life.

References:
Factors that Affect Learners at Risk of Getting Failing Grades
Cristine Boiser, et.al.2019