THE DECLINE OF GOOD MANNERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Teachers are fond of well-mannered students. Greeting “good morning” or “good afternoon”, cleaning the classroom without being told, attending classes regularly and even not bullying their classmates are some of the students’ behaviors teachers appreciate. In Filipino culture specially in the Northern Philippines, saying “po” and “opo” and pagmamano in elders, are some of the ways of showing good manners and right conduct that are pleasing to everyone. Good manners are important. However, there is a decline in it that can be observed in every school and in every home. It is as if the new generation has already forgotten our very own culture.

In the past, children highly valued the love, and guidance given by their parents. If someone committed a mistake, children did not fight back or talk while being scolded by their parents. They respected their parents. It was also the same in the school. Students respected their teachers. It was a taboo for the students to answer back or even argue with a teacher unless there was an activity that required such. They knew their simple responsibilities like doing household chores such as fetching water, cleaning the house, washing the dishes or even taking good care of their little siblings. Majority of the children were religious and constantly engaged in religious activities. In school, initiative and cooperation was innate in students. They behaved appropriately without being asked and reprimanded.

Nowadays, because of the advent of new technology, students spend more time in texting, video gaming or engaging in social media. They do not have enough time in helping making household chores, lack of quality time with the family and even their simple obligations in school. They spend more time with people of their age in person and virtually. This results to them not learning the good manners that older people like parents and teachers are expected to teach them. To save the children
from the decline of good manners and values degradation, parents has to assert themselves to their children and make them see the importance of good manners and values. Also, parents are role models for their children when it comes to values formation. In school, teachers are expected to integrate values formation in every lesson and utilize the time for homeroom in developing and strengthening the good traits and manners of the students. Enlightening with the students the importance of good manners and right conduct will somehow give them encouragement to preserve the beauty of Filipino customs and tradition.

The change has brought different communities the progress that no one has ever imagined. This has open up to different cultures of the world. However, this does not mean one has to forget his own roots. The culture is what defines him as a human being. Likewise, technology has brought about a lot of advancement and improvement but it need not change what makes a person likable and acceptable in the school and their homes. This does not mean one has to discharge himself or herself with the teachings of the past. Filipinos are known for his or her good manners. This is what separates him or her from others. Thus, no matter what happens, his or her good manners will never be compromised. He or she will stand up as a dignified Filipino.

“"It doesn’t matter how many A-levels you have, what kind of a degree you have, if you have good manners, people will like you.” Kate Reardon.

“A man’s manners are a mirror in which he shows his portrait.” Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

References: