THE FACE OF BULLYING

by:
Jay-R C. Diacamos
Bataan Christian School

Bullying is referred to as an abuse and mistreatment of someone vulnerable by someone stronger, more powerful, and any other related characteristics. In an environment where a bully is at large, fear and terror among victims is evident as well. This phenomenon is usually observed in schools. In the Philippine setting, it has been found out that there are a total of 19,672 cases of bullying in both public and private school on a time period of school year 2016-2017. In an article by Romero (2018), Senator Sonny Angara said that based on a cycle of 202 school days, the number of recorded cases of bullying translates to 97 reported incidents of bullying in schools every day. Moreover, he also said that nearly 100 cases of bullying everyday are recorded by the Department of Education, and it is possible many more have not been reported due to fear or shame by victims of bullying. In addition, he also said that bullying is one of the earliest forms of violence children can encounter. In line with this, he said that we must do everything we can to protect children from it.

Fortunately, we now have the anti-bullying law. This law mandates all public and private kindergarten, elementary and high schools in the country to adopt anti-bullying policies, which include provisions on prohibited acts, prevention and intervention programs, mechanisms and procedures in handling bullying incidents. Under this law, bullying can be referred to as unwanted physical contact such as punching, pushing kicking and slapping. Second, bullying can also be referred to as any act that causes damage to emotional wellbeing. Third, bullying can also be referred to as any slanderous statement or accusation like directing foul language or profanity and name-calling, and lastly, gender-based bullying and cyber bullying.
With a clear definition of what bullying is all about, we must all take part in our fight against this senseless activity. What our learners need is an environment which will give them an atmosphere of being safe, as well as an environment where they can really learn and showcase their talents. With this kind of an ideal environment where bullying is nowhere to be found, we will have students who will be more engaged not only in academic activities, but other school activities such as athletics, arts, music, and any other related endeavor.

References:

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