THE WILLPOWER TO READ

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Reading is one of the most important skills that students should develop at school. It is considered as basic for survival and lifetime learning. Unlike speaking, reading is not just an inherent matter that begin with the child. Thus, it is a process that gradually develops as the child is subjugated to formal education.

In Smith and Dechant’s book of Psychology in Teaching Reading, as postulated by the authors, reading is a primary avenue to all knowledge. It offers access to the information, ideas, aspirations, and happenings of both the past and the present. Through reading one extends his environment from home and community to the world as a whole.

Moreover, reading also is an activity that requires time to process. If reading is not developed among children, problems may arise. According to Anderson (1985), reading tends to be boring and it will lead to poor reading. Poor readers oftentimes are inattentive and listless and sometimes they are disruptive. They become anxious when they read.

In relation to reading anxiety, Shunk (2009) reported that the significant number of illiterate Filipinos has grown to fifteen million and is expected to further increase as more children stop schooling every year.

There is also a disclosed result of the Phil-IRI that was administered to elementary schools in the Division of Manila during school year 2003-2004 which showed that over one-third of elementary graduates were identified as frustrated readers (commit multiple types of errors in oral reading). Another one-third were instructional readers (can profit from instruction).
As an after effect of poor reading, Philippines has one of the highest unemployment rates in Asia based on the latest International Labor Organization Data. 21.7% of our youth are not in education, unemployment or training as of 2017. (Cruz, N. 2017)

In spite of the perceived problems and disclosed numbers of reading crisis, the government constituted ways on how to figure it out. Cristobal (2015) cited that ways to promote literacy are encouraged by the government, organization, or even private individuals as the ability to read and write is an outmost priority. The various ways to improve literacy are enumerated such as “Every Child A Reader Program”, “The Library Hub”, “A Focus in K-3 Curriculum Language Development”, “The Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education”, “Journalism program under Republic Act 7079”, lastly, activities throughout the year includes Book Week and National Reading Month.

Parents as well as teachers who play a big role in children’s life should instill to them the value of reading. Children must have the willpower to read so that reading crisis will be lessened if not be totally cured.

References:


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