TODAY’S EDUCATION DEMANDS FOR CRITICAL LITERACY

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Can you read this sentence? - “I was surprised after I received the gift.”

That’s amazing. How about this, ‘Can you write a big and small letter A?’

I’m pretty sure you can. It is because you can read and write, but does it end with what you can do literally?

Let me provide you a time to think about that. If you are a student and you are able to read sentences, stories, and articles and are able to write the alphabet, vowels, and copy what’s written on the blackboard, well then, good for you. Those excellent jobs are for students in the primary level. If I tell you that the sentence “I was knocked on my heels after I received the gift” has also the same idea like the previous one, would you think twice?

Now for my next question, are students from secondary and tertiary level can do more beyond just reading and writing?

Learning to read and write is a vital part of a person’s development holistically. It supplements and complements one another in order to achieve competency. Literacy also goes with the idea of being able to read and to write. But the sole meaning of the ability to read and write doesn’t just end with its literal meaning.

According to CNN Philippines Life, Philippines is known for its best quality education and it stands tall above most of the world. This, however, appears to be at odds with reality: despite our people's literacy, many Filipinos remain poor, and even those who have accomplished higher education still struggle in a global workplace where
workers from countries like India and Vietnam have far outstripped them in terms of competence.

As seen by PISA, in December 2019, the nation was thrown into an uproar by the release of the 2018 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and according to study, high school students in the Philippines ranked lower in reading comprehension, mathematics, and science than students in other countries. According to the statistics, over 80% of Filipino students around the age of fifteen did not achieve the standard quality of reading proficiency.

The demands for literacy and numeracy competence have evolved, but literacy instruction in the Philippines concentrate on narratives. But the reality of this generation’s learning is that students should be exposed to expository texts, need for the processing of information, information gathering, verification and cross-checking of facts, and the interpretation of graphs.

It is rampant especially on the social platforms where most young people usually encounter different information, news, and stories about the issues in the society. Misinformation about health tips, alleged government warnings and even showbiz issues tends to spread quicker than we can ever imagine. It escalates from one person to another just like a virus that is a potentially dangerous thing.

Right now, there is a need for critical literacy wherein people should look at the different perspective or sides of information that has to be analyzed and cross-checked impartially. However, this is also a big challenge for teachers at the present time. Educational awareness about the concept of Critical Literacy is a must to impart to students’ minds. This should focus on the ability of the students to synthesize, visualize, infer, and make connections not just on the literal level but also beyond the materials they are given.
This is a call for the Education system both Public and Private sectors to do something about it. This is a national issue and it needs to be resolved, especially in the senior high school level. Check and see where we can improve the potential of the 21st Century learners to be globally competent. Intensifying the emphasis on literacy and comprehension programs as well as realigning it with the K-12 Curriculum is also a key for improvement. This is a national issue and should to be resolved, especially in the senior high school level.

References:

What’s to blame for the low reading comprehension of the Filipino youth? (cnn.ph)