WAR AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

by:
Jam Aigelle M. Borja

According to Velayo (2006), in many third world countries, violence against children continues to be a pressing problem. The Philippines is similar to many other Asian countries in a way that the violence is often manifested in the form of abuse.

As stated in Rappler in the year 2012, according to a 2009 report of PLAN Philippines a children’s organization, at least 5 out of 10 Filipino children in grades 1-3, 7 out of 10 in grades 4-6, and 6 out of 10 in high school have experienced some kind of violence in school. The most common forms of physical violence experienced by Filipino children are: pinching, having objects such as books, chalks, erasers thrown at them.

As mentioned above, Senate Bill No. 1477, known as “Positive Discipline of Children Act of 2017”, a bill which promotes positive and nonviolent discipline of children, prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment, humiliating and degrading treatment, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes has been filed on May 29, 2017 by Grace Poe, Nancy Binay, Risa Hontiveros, and Leila De Lima. This bill covers the school, home, and other institutions where the child moves. But the most affected coverage of this bill is the school where the child spends most of his time every day.

It is significant for a student to enhance and boost his or her self-confidence inside and outside of the school premises. That is why the school serves as the second home wherein they can hone their abilities, skills, and many more. We all believe that the school is the place in which they become familiar with themselves, develop friendship, enhance self-confidence and create the person they want for themselves.
But, as we all know, when this bill has reached the public, many people gave their negative insights toward the said bill. For us to be enlightened, let us discuss the advantages we can benefit from the said bill when we look at the brighter side of this view.

What can be the advantage of having this bill? What can be the benefit of the learners and the educators? First one is they become familiar with themselves in a way that he or she improves holistically. Each of us has our own “comfort zone” that defines the routine of our daily life. But experiencing stress and anxiety stay us wrap up in our little cocoon and not having a chance to explore what can we do more.

Another advantage of this bill is they develop friendship in an easier way. When students are not experiencing punishment or bad experiences, they tend to have security which derives them to have friendship with other students of same age.

Next advantage is they develop self-confidence. When they do not feel degrading treatment, their self-assurance gets higher. Given this instance, they become more productive in school activities, active in classroom discussions, and extra-curricular activities.

Most importantly, the person they want to be years from that time, is getting closer and closer when the educational environment helps them to be one. The punishment, humiliation, degrading treatment, and corporal punishment are hindrances to the development of the holistic aspect of students.

There are times that they are being humiliated in every little move they do, embarrassed because of a single mistake, and degraded just because they are different from other students. Yes, we cannot remove the fact that students are just the benefactors of this bill. But, have we seen the learners who are getting trapped because of the people who stop them from being the person they want? Let us make it stop now. Let them experience freedom in their own—respectively.
References:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226410013_A_Perspective_on_Child_Abuse_in_the_Philippines_Looking_at_Institutional_Factors
