WHERE CORRUPTION BEGINS

by:
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Corruption is the enemy of development and good governance. It must be got rid of both the government and People at large must come together to achieve this national objective, Pratibha Patil

The educational communities purposively used the motto, HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY objectively to inculcate moral values and uphold the dignity of our youth, who will eventually become our future leaders. I always remember my grade three teacher who told us that it is better to receive low grades if you have gotten it honestly rather than a high grades earned dishonestly.

Teacher can influence the whole persona and perspective of the learners either in a positive or negative way they are learning through example. If they see that they teachers can be bribed by money, position or even sex they will grow up thinking that exploitative and manipulative behaviour is normal and ethical.

Corruption happens when a person on authority used his position or power for personal gained and unfortunately both teachers and school administrators are guilty to this. According an article published in the Philippine Star, Corruption in school starts with the TEACHERS.

Since teachers have absolute power as far as the grade of a student is concerned, and the temptation to be corrupt is countless. This is a small but important example of how absolute power corrupts absolutely. Corruption starts at young age, if the teacher undermined children’s behaviour toward corruption they will grow up thinking that it would just be a normal activity of society and might follow the same pattern as they become adults.
A simple cheating can lead to corruption, it is sad to say that we don’t have strict rules on cheating. Students can easily get away with this and sadly it can be conceived that this mentality of students are derived from workforce they observed in school. Cheating and corruption behave like a riding in tandem; they work hand in hand for whatever they could snatch.

There is no doubt that there is corruption in educational system, perhaps it is not as controversial compare to pork barrel scam and PDAF; but corruption in school has significant impact to our nation building. The most observable form of corruption is mostly involving collection of money hid in different ways like educational tour, test paper, raffle draw and selling different stuff to the students even though the department had strict rules on this matter.

For instances, a typical tour covers admission fee, bus rental and other miscellaneous cost. However, due to poor liquidation practice and they can add up on an actual cost therefore they made it as lucrative venue for corruption.

How do we solve such problem? May I speak on my own perspective, proper accounting must be observed. It is tedious job but it can minimize or avoid being tempted on adding unreasonable cost.

The most noticeable practice of corruption at school is, teachers are selling goods and other stuff in exchange of additional points or higher grades; but if we look at it deeply, it still form of corruption where teachers used their power over students to gain economic benefits and sadly we’re teaching our students how to bribe authorities.

Finally, I would like to leave the old adage… Values are not taught they are caught.
Reference:

The Philippine Star, 10, 17, 24 April and 8 May 2008
PICJ-blog
Amita O. Legaspi, GMANews.TV