

THE TEACHER FACTOR

by:

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In most stories that I have heard, when parents are asked about their dream career for their children, seldom that they would answer “to be a teacher.” You would often hear them say, “I’d like my children to be an engineer, or a doctor, or a dentist, or an architect, and etc.” Why has this been the culture in our society today? Why do people see teaching as the last resort and never the first choice?

This article aims to linger on the reasons behind this very unfortunate set-up and its outcome/ result in our community. Because most Filipinos prefer selecting other careers for the smartest in the family, who are now left for teaching? “Mag-teacher ka na lang.” has its predicament to educational landscape in our country today. Needless to say, although we have high regard for teachers, we cannot deny that our preview on education is badly established.

Who, now, is left to teach? If not the smartest, then maybe the opposite of it. A learner will NEVER learn from a teacher who does not know anything about what he/she is teaching. Sad yet true, when the opposite of the smartest is given the responsibility to teach, where do we expect our learners to land? Again, this is not to generalize but to see the sad reality we all are facing right now.

Has the PRC test been enough in determining the kind of teachers we have in the schools today? Is this test reliable in measuring the intellectual capacity of our teachers to teach? If so, then why do we rank second to the last in an international assessment done with Junior High School students for English, Math, and Science? This does not only say something about the students. More so, it tells something big about the teachers who

taught these students. Have they done enough? The results can never lie. You and I both know by now the answer.

To say the very least, this result showed how competent/ incompetent our learners are during the face-to-face classes before the pandemic. What more if the students of today will take another assessment? Students who have not undergone a fruitful and profitable engagement? Do we expect a better result?

We must all wake up for this very debatable issue. The selection for aspiring teachers should be more fashion-fitted to the needs of the learners. Otherwise, we spend hundreds of thousands of pesos in printing and checking assessment tools that bring us nothing but poor results. A teacher must be the master of his own pedagogy. Someone who has command over the language he/ she is using. Someone who can multi-task. Someone who is credible enough to be the students' friend, father, mother, brother, sister, and most especially mentor.

Undeniably, the Philippines is in need of teachers who are competent teachers who can excel together with his students. A teacher with a mind that challenges young learners to think. A teacher with a heart that understands even the most difficult children to deal with and a teacher with the will to go beyond what is required of him.

The Philippines deserves the best and the brightest teachers. Don't you think?

References:

<https://www.prc.gov.ph/requirements/teacher>

<https://www.courses.com.ph/teachers-in-the-philippines/>