

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BASIC EDUCATION POLICY: ITS IMPACT TO A CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY

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The whole LGBTQIA+ community was rejoicing recently after Department of Education issued a memorandum strictly imposing Deped Order 32, series 2017 which implements Gender Responsive Basic Education Policy.

This order allows DepEd to “integrate the principles of gender equality, gender equity, gender sensitivity, non-discrimination, and human rights in the provision and governance of basic education.” This also aims to protect students from discrimination, gender-related violence, abuse, exploitation, and bullying and ensures gender parity in the workplace and in mainstreaming gender inclusivity in policies and programs, projects, and activities.

This is actually in line with the department’s mandate on ensuring access to quality basic education for all. This policy is evidently giving equal rights to learners belonging to the so called “third sex community” who were most of the time victims of bullying in school due to their gender orientation and expression.

The idea gives a feeling of liberation among students belonging to this community for they don’t have to abide to the school’s heteronormative policies. Most of the gay reacted positively as they are not forced to have haircuts and wear male uniforms. They will be free to express themselves inside the campus.

But how liberating this order really is? This may provide protection only inside the campus but when they go out, how would they be treated by the people in a conservative

and stereotyping society. A genuine freedom must not only be limited in a certain place but it should be expansive.

It doesn't take a single memorandum to make a change. It takes a long time to make the people accept what is before unacceptable; and how could this be possible? Education may interfere in granting a genuine kind of freedom and equality among men. First, education on accepting people for what they are should start inside the school not only by abiding to the rules but by instilling to the students the value of respect and belief that all men are created equal. This education should transcend to their family and to the community.

The nation itself should impose a law that would strictly uphold the right of every man even from whatever community they belong. An iron hand must be used in order to enact the law. The law must be clear and specific so that each of the people may understand what is to be done to be able to give a fair and square opportunity and treatment to people who are belonging to the third sex community.

A simple provision of comfort room for gays and lesbians is recognition that they have a part in the community. Same sex union may not be acceptable to all but it should be respected.

People belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community are also creations of God. They also deserve to be accepted, respected and most especially loved. There is really nothing wrong to be conservative and conventional but not to the extent of being discriminating, abusing and prejudicial.

Granting an authentic freedom to those kind of people is never difficult if only everybody has an open mind about people's differences and a kind heart to accept.

References:

<https://ph.news.yahoo.com/no-more-forced-haircuts-dept-045322885.html>

No more forced haircuts? Dept. of Education releases memo reiterating 'gender-responsive' policy for schools
Coconuts Manila