

LANGUAGE LITERACY: BRIDGE TO BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

by:

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Education is one of the most powerful instruments that allows individual to become productive citizens of the community. It also develops one's knowledge and skills to be able to survive in the challenging and competing world. The acquired skills and experiences become a paramount key to opportunities for employment and to an improved life status.

Moreover, education enhances self-independence and improves financial stability. This makes educated people find ways to be self-reliant. Also, education improves individual's competence and proficiency to enable him to compete globally. It serves as a tool to be employed in various companies across the world.

However, with the previous records of the Philippine Education System, it is empirical to understand the problems and challenges that the country was previously experiencing up to the present. According to UNESCO, we have recorded the huge dropped back from 96 % down to 84% in 2005 for elementary level. In the same year that completion rate was recorded below 70%. In secondary level, the same scenario had happened which included the backdown from 66% to 55 % net enrollment.

By literacy, Philippines marked the only country in the South-East Asia with declining youth literacy rates of 1.5% in 2003. Moreover, Filipino learners' performance in Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) by 2003 was placed in 34th out of 38 in Mathematics and 43rd out of 46 in Science countries. The result embarked the insufficiencies of student's enhancement on both literacy and numeracy.

By reading ability, Philippines was the only country in the South-East Asia with declining youth literacy rates of 1.5% in year 2003. This is one of the challenging issues the country is facing at present --- poor performance of students in terms of literacy, reading and comprehension. It is no doubt that language literacy has a big role in improving one's life. Language is very vital in all aspects of human activities, growth, and progress.

Giraldo 2018 emphasized in his study on Language Assessment Literacy that language literacy has to be assessed not only with students but also for teachers. Language assessment impact teaching and learning including the programs, activities, and related reinforcements which are profoundly engaging to students. This study justifies the claim of the researcher to focus on the importance of language literacy not only for academic excellence but also in terms of employability and skills improvement.

This issue is continuously observed in the school as students struggle in achieving higher level of proficiency in terms of reading and writing where comprehension is also involved. A plethora of published researches identify various issues linking to language literacy. This is very evident in the Senior High School where students are expected to be more competent in the language since they have acquired the basic skills during their lower years. However, the result of different literacy tests show that the Philippines still need to give emphasis on language literacy especially in Senior High School.

If Senior High School graduates are well equipped with literacy skills, one can confidently excel in any job opportunities either local or international. It will be easy for our graduates to secure better jobs and be employed to various leading companies compared to those who possess technical skills only. Language is very vital in the business world. Companies require aspiring applicants to be competent with the required documents including qualification, educational background, experiences, and communication skills. Thus, language cannot be excluded in frontline of lists of requirements in terms of job opportunities and employability.

References:

Giraldo, F., (2020). A Reflection on initiatives for Teachers' Professional Development Through Language Assessment Literacy.
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