LITERACY AS A PRE-REQUISITE SKILL IN MASTERING NUMERACY

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Pupils with poor reading comprehension tend to have difficulties in answering a worded problem in Math. A learner who cannot read cannot really solve problems in Mathematics and most subject areas as well resulting to poor academic standing. When a learner begins how to read with comprehension, is only then that he could easily solve worded problems in Math based on his level. Aside from learning the basics in Math and being skillful in solving equations, a learner who is good in Math should also be well-rounded when it comes to worded problems that requires great comprehension, analysis and critical thinking. This would help the learner look for immediate solutions in real-life problems which involves mathematical analysis. Through these worded problems, math enthusiasts are determined to arrive with the final answer after doing a lot of trial-and-error in his solutions. They say if you're good in math, you're probably not good in English. I opt to disagree because there are those I know like Math geniuses who are good in both. They could really comprehend well to worded problems and eventually equate the words numerically then come up with an accurate answer. In contrary, there are some pupils who are good in computations or in performing the basic mathematical skills but when there are worded problems that requires good comprehension, they tend to find it difficult to answer.

Reading and Math teacher should work hand-in-hand in teaching a learner how to read and comprehend. If Math teachers do not teach their learners how to read, then whatever the reason is in Math, the learner who is poor reader couldn't catch up with the lesson no matter how good is the teacher is or not even the usage of ICT in the teaching

and learning process would make him understand the lesson. To make it easy for the learners, teachers tend to translate these worded problems in the Filipino medium along with the instructions and the step-by-step process on how to solve the equation or how to arrive with the final answer. Only then will the learner know what to do. The problem is, the subject Mathematics under the K-12 Curriculum is written and must be taught in the English Medium. It is only in the primary graders that they use the Mother Tongue in teaching the learning area.

Reading as important as Math. When reading requires practice and a daily dose of reading everyday could you learn how to read, and so as learning Mathematics. If one makes it a practice to read worded problems, turn the words into numerical equations and then solves the problem independently. But after series of tries, still he finds it hard to comprehend with the problem, then the math teacher becomes a reading teacher. Learning how to read is indeed a pre-requisite to learning Mathematics. If a learner knows how to comprehend on printed or written texts, only then he could perform various mathematical equations accurately and solve worded problems systemically. Wrong interpretations of worded problems may lead to incorrect solutions and eventually come up with wrong answers. If reading is a step-by-step process wherein the last and the highest level is reading comprehension, only then the learner is ready to begin Math.

References:

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