

## BEHIND REPORTS AND NUMBERS

*by:*  
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The time came for the initial checking of year end reports. It was my first year in teaching and I was given an advisory class. I made the reports and recorded the right numbers in the attendance area of the report cards, Form 137 and School Form 2. I finished early and I was one of the first to be checked. I came in confident and knew that I did everything correctly. But I came out defeated and sad.

I was tasked to change the records. A student or students could not be promoted if their attendance was less than 80 percent. I argued that the teachers gave them passing grade despite their absences. However, the checker told me that if they will allow me to proceed, the supervisors would just make me change the records so better not argue and change it immediately. I was shocked but logic slowly sank in. I need to follow and my arguments would land on deaf ears.

Being a graduate of BS Statistics from a school that was recognized for academic excellence and having worked in companies where I was tasked to make reports and handle millions of data, everything in me is screaming denial in what I was tasked to do. I just did the recording and reporting. What I was submitting was the real data. It represented what happened in the classroom. My dilemma lasted less than an hour for there was a deadline and I was not given a choice. I must do it and I did it with eyes closed.

What I did was not right but acceptable. Francis Kong said, "Life is an unending learning experience." and I just had a big life lesson. What bothered me more was

knowing there's more to come. There will be more things to learn and unlearn. But I was so sure of one thing, I need to set a limit. There should be boundaries that should not be crossed. I need to be proactive but submissive.

Knowing what was expected is a good thing for you could plan ahead. On my second year in teaching, I have anticipated and knew when intervention should be made. I was given enough time to resolve issues related to attendance and at the end of school year, there was no need to redo reports and there was no use for extra blank cards. Erasures weren't made. Adjustments were unneeded.

Attendance was just one of the data being reported. There are other numbers being changed and those were acceptable. But no matter how hard we try to change the data, test scores from National Achievement Tests and Programme for International Student Assessment would always be a valid and unbiased representation of our efforts towards our students.

#### *References:*

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