

GHOSTING IN EDUCATION

by:

Desiree M. Dela Cruz

Mariveles National High School - Cabcaben

Ghosting is a relatively new colloquial dating term that becomes viral on social media. This refers to abruptly discontinuing contact with someone without warning or explanation. Even when the person being ghosted attempts to re-establish contact or seek closure, they are met with silence. Ghosting is so named because it involves someone "vanishing or disappearing" into thin air as if they were a ghost.

In education, a student is considered committing ghosting if he/she incurs absences of more than 20% of the prescribed number of class or laboratory periods during the school year or semester as per DO. No. 8 s. 2015.

Being ghosted, the teacher was saddened by the student's disappearance, which will lead to conducting a series of home visitations. Despite the teacher's efforts in reaching out to the students, if within seven weeks without any communication or effort made by the learner or parent, the teacher can already update the status in the Learners Information System (LIS) into NLPA or No Longer Participating in Learning Activities.

Nonetheless, like in different relationships, there are reasons why the students ghost the teacher. Some may be valid, and others are not. In consonance with research about the reasons for school dropouts in the Philippines, they identified the top five reasons for dropouts in the Philippines within a certain year. In 2008, these are the top reasons why students dropped accordingly: the high cost of education, employment or looking for work, lack of personal interest, marriage, and finished schooling.

In 2013, research shows that employment or looking for a job becomes the number one reason for students' dropout followed by insufficient family income, lack of personal interest, marriage, and finished schooling.

In light of the pandemic which started in 2020, the top reasons for the student's decision were financial constraints, inability to adapt to online student life, and loss of interest in studying.

It can be inferred that ghosting in education has been a problem even before the pandemic and most of the children who commit these are constrained by poverty much more in this pandemic where lots of Filipinos are considered as new poor.

The Department of Education has been wary about this, thus several programs for dropout reduction intervention were introduced such as Open High School Program (OHSP) and the like.

Despite being "ghosted", DepEd, is always doing its part and openly welcomes and entices the students to be back in formal school.

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