

HAMON: BAWAT BATA BUMABASA (3BS INITIATIVE) – A STEPPINGSTONE TO READING PROGRESS

by:

Mariquita A. Banal

Biaan Aeta Integrated School Teacher III

Learning to read is a challenging process that involves both text comprehension and text decoding abilities. Recognizing and comprehending requires dynamic word groups. It is an extensive process that calls for engagement, word recognition, fluency, and comprehension. The importance of reading cannot be argued. The ability to read is one of the most significant educational outcomes of basic education. It is a crucial element of all learning and is related to a child's academic accomplishment and work satisfaction (Garnes & Wichowski, 2004). Reading is essential because comprehending what you read is necessary for the majority of formal education.

To support the implementation of the K-12 Basic Education Program, the Department of Education (DepEd) continuously achieves its goal of creating trustworthy, responsible individuals who possess the knowledge and abilities for lifelong learning. Schools all around the country strive to help learners improve their reading skills so that they can all become proficient readers. However, according to the most recent findings of national assessments of student learning, the programs are still unsatisfactory. The results demonstrated that many students continue to struggle to meet the early language, literacy, and numeracy standards. It was also found that many students with low test scores found it difficult to understand word problems in Science and Mathematics because they were written in English. Additionally, according to a survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the functional literacy rate in the Philippines was projected to be 91.6 percent in 2019. (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020). The results showed a persistent decline in the country's rating since 2016. Likewise, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Program for International Student

Assessment (PISA) revealed in 2018 that the Philippines had the lowest reading comprehension score among 79 countries. Meanwhile, the Department of Education indicated that many learners are still unable to achieve the standards for attaining early language literacy. Low English achievement appears to be caused by gaps in reading comprehension. (DepEd Memo No. 173 series 2019). To reduce student literacy gaps, DepEd is stepping up its campaign on reading proficiency with the launch of the Hamon: Bawat Bata Bumabasa (3Bs Initiative) project.

The HAMON: Bawat Bata Bumabasa (3Bs Initiative) reading program of the Department of Education may be an effective solution to the country's reading problem. In DepEd Memorandum No. 173 s.2019, former Education Secretary Leonor Briones stated that Every Child a Reader Program (ECRAP) which primarily aims to provide learners with reading abilities to make them excellent and capable readers in their grade level will be strengthened by the 3Bs initiative (Malipot, 2019). In terms of word reading and reading comprehension, it may also improve learners' reading skills. The sort of reading intervention used and the teacher's background as the reading coordinator was found to be the most crucial factors to consider when implementing a reading program. Likewise, parental involvement in the management of the reading program is critical, especially in considering the current pandemic (Dorado & Medina, 2022).

Reading expands one's horizons, offers enjoyment, stimulates the imagination, and has advantageous neurological and psychological effects. Hence, the 3Bs initiative may help students become better readers and make them motivated to read more. Participating students not only reduces any potential learning loss but also exhibits gains. The majority of students grow interested in reading, enhance their comprehension, and strengthen their retention. When people learn primarily through exposure, reading material becomes more engaging. However, a variety of reading initiatives are created to guide students in the fundamental literacy abilities required for academic success through a progression of engaging and inspiring lessons. Learners can benefit most from sustaining

the school's reading programs that support the 3Bs initiative and addressing the appropriate reading strategy for learners.

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