

THE NEED FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

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In his book “Rich Dad, Poor Dad”, author Robert Kiyosaki emphasized the difference between how he was educated by his two fathers and how these two distinct approaches helped shape his future. He also highlighted how his educated dad who worked hard all his life has never obtained financial security while his undergraduate father accumulated wealth by working smart.

In the Philippines, we often hear parents and teachers telling students to study well so that they can land a job that will secure them a better future. Children thus see school as a place where they are obliged to learn how to read, write and count proficiently as these skills are deemed necessary. Our society has thus created a generation of individuals who continuously battle for a better life as if they are in a rat race. They are working hard believing that if they do, a great future awaits.

However, teaching our learners the basic operations and the most complex concepts in Mathematics isn't enough to prepare them for the future. Putting weight on the importance of being street smart or working smart is also essential. In the real world, we don't just add the number of apples eaten by someone we know, instead, we need to evaluate if buying an apple every time we visit the market will impact our quality of life in the future. Providing learners with real-time and actual experience on how they can apply the mathematical concepts that they learn in school will be more effective in making sure that they are already well-equipped as they step out of the four corners of the classroom. Instead of asking them to repeatedly answer window cards, let them play

monopoly so they'll learn not just how to add or multiply but also how to grow their assets incessantly.

Relatively, having secured a high-paying job doesn't necessarily equate to a comfortable life. Being able to protect and grow your wealth is another skill that should be taught in schools as it will inspire students to dream and flourish.

The goals of education are profound; however, the means by which these could be achieved could be made better. It is thus time for a paradigm shift in education especially in Mathematics. Mathematics instruction shouldn't be delimited by pen and paper. Rather, it should motivate students to explore the world, dream high, and work smarter for a life that won't only satisfy their own needs but will also provide them with the opportunity to serve others.

References:

Kiyosaki, R. (2000 April 01). Rich Dad, Poor Dad. Warner Books

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan