

MANAGING THE DETERIORATING READING LITERACY SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

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Reading is one of the macro skills that all pupils should be able to master. This skill is a vital gateway to many other professions and offers many doors to help people succeed in their life endeavors. However, reading literacy in the Philippines is becoming a severe problem, resulting in Filipino incompetence in several local or foreign professions. Because many people lack mastery of this skill, practice should begin in elementary school.

In truth, many pupils can read, but not all of them do. Reading and literacy, according to Juan Miguel Luz (2007), are distinct but connected concepts. "They are related," he says, "but literacy is a level of competence, whereas reading is a skill." One can be literate but not necessarily a reader because reading, as a skill, necessitates the formation of a habit that must be practiced on a regular basis if it is to be retained and improved. If the ability is not used, it becomes rusty and may even be lost."

This difficulty in the classroom is particularly concerning because it might lead to a more significant problem in the school and society. Bad reading literacy leads to bad learning because people must be able to read to work effectively, interact effectively with others, and compete globally. However, this is only sometimes a student-factor issue.

There are numerous things to consider that may contribute to the existence of such an issue. Indeed, poverty, technology, and a lack of motivation and inspiration all hampered reading instruction in the Philippines, according to an article titled 'Reading Instruction in the Philippines' (2012) published on the website Smart Schools. Some

families need more money to send their children to schools that provide high-quality education, but there are public schools for those who cannot afford to pay for private education. However, some public schools need more teachers and current reading resources for kids.

Furthermore, modern technology competes with the opportunity for youngsters to read books. Instead of reading a book, many children prefer to play video games or mobile apps or spend several hours on various social media sites. Lack of motivation is also a concern because parental and teacher motivation is required. Children's willingness or interest in reading may be improved if they receive support or incentive from those around them.

Despite these issues with reading literacy, various reading programs are available by both public and private groups that can promote reading and prevent many youngsters from becoming incompetent in this skill. There are other programs that provide teacher training to remediate and enrich reading education. The teacher can also use reading comprehension tactics and approaches such as generating questions, determining importance, silent reading, interpreting terminology in context, etc.

The Philippines has been dubbed "a nation of nonreaders," and reading literacy in the country is reportedly declining. The youngsters require inspiration from those around them, government support in providing up-to-date reading materials, trained teachers, and assistance from adults or friends to inspire them to love reading. Nothing is impossible to do if one is determined. There is still hope as long as programs encourage reading instruction and commit teachers to nurturing young minds. It is not too late for a better transformation.

References:

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