

FOSTERING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP SKILLS IN FILIPINO LEARNERS THROUGH TEACHING CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

by:

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In this dynamic and interconnected world, we are living today, equipping Filipino students with global citizenship skills is a critical aspect of education. This entails not only imparting academic knowledge but also instilling the values and abilities required to be responsible and active global citizens. Teaching contemporary issues plays an instrumental role in this process, given its capacity to connect students to real-world challenges.

Global citizenship skills encompass a wide range of competencies that allow individuals to engage with the global community as informed, compassionate, and responsible participants (Global Citizenship Foundation, 2022; OECD, n.d.). Such skills are indispensable for Filipino students for several reasons. Firstly, in an era marked by globalization and rapid technological advances, the Philippines is intrinsically linked to the global stage, rendering global issues like climate change, human rights, and health crises as pertinent to the nation as they are to any other. Secondly, given the cultural diversity within the country, Filipino learners can significantly benefit from cultivating an understanding of, and respect for, the myriad cultural perspectives present in the world. These skills foster tolerance, inclusivity, and a broader worldview. Furthermore, global citizenship skills facilitate critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving, as many contemporary issues require international cooperation to resolve. Lastly, these competencies empower Filipino students to take an active role in global dialogues, advocate for positive change, and participate in international initiatives, contributing to a brighter future for all.

To achieve the goal of developing global citizenship skills among Filipino learners, several strategies can be implemented. Firstly, embedding contemporary issues into the curriculum across subjects is crucial. This approach emphasizes the global and local relevance of these issues and encourages students to think critically about their impact. Additionally, incorporating cultural awareness into the curriculum is essential, enabling students to appreciate the diversity and challenges present in various countries and communities worldwide. This can be achieved through projects, cultural exchanges, or virtual international collaborations.

Service learning projects provide an effective way for students to address global issues at a local level, fostering a sense of agency and responsibility. Proficiency in multiple languages, including English, is also significant in a multilingual country like the Philippines, as it aids in effective global communication and participation. Teachers themselves can play a pivotal role in modeling global citizenship by engaging in global initiatives, illustrating the importance of active global engagement to students.

Furthermore, promoting critical thinking and media literacy equips learners with the ability to critically evaluate information from various sources, ensuring they can form well-informed opinions on global issues. Forming global affairs clubs within schools encourages students to delve deeper into international matters, providing a platform for discussion, debate, and action.

Lastly, the establishment of virtual exchange programs or partnerships with schools and organizations abroad can facilitate international interactions, allowing Filipino learners to connect with peers from different cultures and backgrounds. These programs open doors for students to appreciate diverse perspectives, building empathy and understanding.

References:

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