

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AS PRIME MOVERS OF EFFECTIVE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

by:

ERLIN B. CARAG

Head Teacher III, Filipino, Lamao National High School

People march on the streets every year, calling for government offices to be more transparent in their operations and funding expenditures. The rally for transparency and accountability remains relevant in government offices and public institutions, just like schools in the country. According to various studies, accountability and transparency merit three crucial qualities that a public institution must possess: efficiency, operation, maintaining public trust, and holistic quality education. This article will expound on why transparency and accountability matter, their benefits, and the challenges many institutions face trying to pursue them.

Accountability and transparency are two different concepts; however, processing both would mean that the public institution is working well on its vision and mission. The former seeks to enable school managers to answer and family make a stand on their decisions for learners and the institution. It encourages them to remain on the front line of the decision-makers, even if severe situations and problems have arisen. Meanwhile, the latter asks the managers to be clear and make any decision visible to the public for scrutiny and review (Australian Institute of Company Directors, 2020). Nevertheless, even if this seems easy to do in the Philippines, they are mixed up with other serious problems involving resource allocation and ethical practices, to name a few.

If only all public institutions, even private ones, seek transparency and accountability, values will be evident. First, the school's reputation will be known, and its credibility will be higher. This may encourage students or parents to enroll their children but will also invite many stakeholders to help develop the quality of education by

providing resources and funding. Schools utilizing his practices might also be seen as evident for having low dropout rates, better community interaction and engagement, and improved learner performance. Gaspar et al. (2022) added that resource management becomes accessible and auditable through the said qualities.

Schools, administrators, and managers may collaborate with stakeholders to start good community relations to achieve the abovementioned goals. Schools should also take part in opting for best practices, such as transparent financial reporting and opening up decision-making processes for everyone involved, even the students. Authorities involved should also take part in making administrators accountable for the actions they make for schools. Consistent monitoring of school progress and strong communication between parents and teachers must also be enforced. Stakeholders must also take initiatives to foster better community relations and promote strong relations among themselves through participating in different activities (International Institute for Educational Planning, 2018).

A public institution's reputation could be marred easily if transparency and accountability remain obscure for people, especially stakeholders. Even if there are other priorities that school managers should consider, Bility in transparency must be among the firsts. Public trust, good reputation, and efficient operations show school administrators' and managers' effectiveness in a particular institution. Establishing a name with trust should be prioritized, and everything else will follow.

References:

Australian Institute of Company Directors (2020). Principle 7: Transparency and accountability. Retrieved October 13, 2023 from <https://www.aicd.com.au/corporate-governance-sectors/not-for-profit/principles/transparency-and-accountability.html>

International Institute for Educational Planning (2018). 10 ways to promote transparency and accountability in education. Retrieved October 13, 2023 from <https://www.iiep.unesco.org/en/10-ways-promote-transparency-and-accountability-education-4307>

Gaspar, M. et al. (2022). Transparency and Accountability of Managing School Financial Resources. Retrieved October 13, 2023 from <https://www.macrothink.org/journal/index.php/jpag/article/download/20146/pdf>