

FACTORS AFFECTING THE DECREASING LITERACY RATES AMONG FILIPINO STUDENTS

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There has been a significant decrease in literacy rates among Filipino students in recent years, and this trend is cause for concern. According to the data pulled from a 2019 study conducted by Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SE-PLM), the number of Filipino students in grade 5 that achieved basic proficiency in reading and writing is much lower when compared to those of other countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam.

There are a number of factors that contribute to this decline, and it is important to understand these factors in order to address the issue and improve literacy rates among Filipino students.

One factor that affects literacy rates is the quality of education. In the Philippines, there is a significant gap between public and private schools in terms of the resources and opportunities available to students. Public schools are often overcrowded, underfunded, and lacking in basic facilities such as classrooms, textbooks, and computers. Thus, it is more difficult for public students to receive a high-quality education, which can impact their ability to learn and read.

Another factor that affects literacy rates is poverty. Many families in the country live in poverty. Children living in poverty may not have access to the same resources and opportunities as their more affluent peers, which may cause them to struggle to afford school supplies, uniforms, and other necessities. This can lead to absenteeism and may make it difficult for these children to keep up with their studies.

A third factor that affects literacy rates is the lack of emphasis on reading and literacy in schools. Many schools in the country do not place a strong emphasis on reading and literacy, and may not have adequate resources or programs in place to support the development of these skills. This inadequacy makes it difficult for students to develop strong reading and literacy skills, which are essential for success in school and in life.

Finally, the use of technology and social media may also be contributing to the decline in literacy rates among Filipino students. Many young people today spend a significant amount of time on their phones, tablets, and computers, and may be more interested in interacting with technology than in reading. In fact, it was recorded in 2022 that around 82% of the country's total population spends over 4 hours on social media platforms. A huge chunk of said social media users is Filipino students.

In conclusion, there are a number of factors that contribute to the decline in literacy rates among Filipino students. These include the quality of education, poverty, a lack of emphasis on reading and literacy in schools, and the increasing use of technology and social media. To address this issue and improve literacy rates, it is important to give a strong focus on these factors and work to improve the resources and opportunities available to students.

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