

WHAT HAPPENED?

by:

Cynthia M. Nañoz

Teacher I, Pagalanggang National High School

Two decades ago, some people could still offer you seats on buses, give you money even if you were a stranger to them, or even lend you someplace inside their houses as one of the most defining characteristics of Filipino people, the hospitality among Filipino people and having good hearts and the Kabalyero style among kalalakihan as they offer you, their seats. This is the culture among the generations decades ago.

As a teacher, I observed several students come and go. Also, the values of each of the generations are being highlighted as these generations grow from time to time. There were decades when the students would not let you carry books on your own and they would still want to get all the things you carry from the very first sight of you on the gate of the school. They would run and ask you if you wanted to be assisted, if you disagreed, they would still get your things, and because of this, before you start, the smile on your face as a teacher would lighten everyone in the room. They urgently wait for you as you open the book and write something on the board.

There were also decades of generations where students would ask another student to teach them during their free time and ask them in their houses to have group sessions of learning with their parents or the host of the session to bring and cook turon with langka, or even banana-q on sticks. There were also decades when students would want to buy tusok-tusok outside the school premises, they would buy and eat outside while they played with their classmates or even chat with their classmates and afterward safely go home. There were times when boys would protect their girl classmates from other bullies.

What happened today?

Where are these values of the Filipino people? Filipino students? Filipino parents?
The Filipinos in general?

What happened to our community?

The previous safe place, now, parents would make haste and run towards the school to fetch their young ones, because they might think negatively of the things which might happen if their child is left alone on the premises where no adults can see these young ones. What happened to the times when the boys would protect girls thoroughly because they had love and respect for the young girls? Even on the buses, I, myself, had experienced that no man stood for a seat to give to me because I am a woman. What happened to the values of the people? Are there things to consider, such as the usage of gadgets, and too much consumption of sugar, sweets, and sodium? Or is it in the genes of the people? Or is the school to be blamed? The culture of society? What else?

What happened and what might happen, may be all speculations.

Sadly, we need to face the reality that the generations today are different from yesterday...

We need to make changes rapidly or else, we might get the bitter result of these...

References:

McCrindle. (2020). Understanding Generation. <https://generationalalpha.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Understanding-Generation-Alpha-McCrindle.pdf>