

LEARNING FROM EVERY MOMENT: A NEW APPROACH TO CHILD PROTECTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

by:

Danica C. Reyes

Teacher I, Morong National High School - Mabayo Annex

The Department of Education's (DepEd) Child Protection Policy (CPP) is the foundation initiative to protect students. However, the current implementation has sparked debate, with recent incidents like the viral video of a teacher disciplining students raising questions about its effectiveness. While the intention is noble, concerns arise that the CPP might be fostering unintended consequences.

One concern is that the CPP, in its strictest interpretation, can create a sense of entitlement among students. Knowing they face minimal repercussions for disruptive behavior, some students may push boundaries, leading to classroom management challenges. This can make it difficult for teachers to maintain a productive learning environment.

Another concern is the perception that the CPP weakens a teacher's authority. The extensive process for addressing behavioral issues can make teachers feel powerless. This can lead to a dynamic where students view teachers as figures who cannot enforce consequences, potentially hindering the teacher's ability to manage the classroom effectively. The recent viral video exemplifies this concern, highlighting teachers' frustration when their disciplinary actions are heavily scrutinized.

Child protection remains the top priority, but how we implement these policies can be improved. First, we need crystal-clear communication for both students and teachers about the "why" and "what if" of the child protection policy. Second, let's empower our students to take responsibility for their actions and how they impact the

learning environment. Third, equip teachers with clear guidelines, resources, and training to effectively address behavioral issues. Last, ensure a supportive environment for both students and educators.

The ideal scenario involves a collaborative approach. Students, teachers, and parents should work together to create a safe and productive learning environment. Empowering students to understand the importance of self-discipline and fostering open communication between students and teachers can be more effective than relying solely on a top-down disciplinary approach.

Revisiting the Child Protection Policy is essential. Instead, it's about ensuring it achieves its intended goals while fostering a learning environment that empowers students and educators. By balancing protection and responsibility, we can create schools where students can thrive, and teachers can effectively guide them. This will require open discussions about the CPP's role in maintaining a respectful and productive learning environment.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

References:

Mag-atas, J. D., et al. (2023, September). Bridging Policy and Practice: An In-depth Exploration of How the DepEd Child Protection Policy Influences Teacher Discipline Strategies. *Cognizance Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*

Huang, Y., Nie, F., & Jia, X. (2023). Forty Years after Poverty Reduction in China: The Role of Women's Empowerment in Enhancing Food Security and Diet Diversity. *Nutrients*, 15(12), 2761.