

BEING A NATION OF ENGLISH SPEAKERS IS NOT THE SOLE CULPRIT

by:

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The Department of Education stated that the English language was cited as one of the reasons why Filipino students received low scores on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The 2018 PISA revealed no discernible distinction between children whose households were English-speaking and those whose homes did not speak the language. The results for 2022, however, indicated that English speakers at home performed less.

This fact shows that the belief that intelligence can be measured through speaking in English can also harm the academic performance of students. We, Filipinos, love to patronize other country without realizing the possible negative effects of not embracing the foundational skills first. This is one of the problems of our educational system wherein we tend to achieve being globally competent without noticing the smallest and simple problems rooting from our own system

Although English proficiency is not the only it does constitute a contributing factor due to its utilization in assessments. However, the mere use of English as a second language must not be the only factor to be investigated. The curriculum, the quality of teaching of public school teachers, and the number of facilities in schools must also be taken into consideration.

The reasons for problems in education can be attributed to many factors, including inadequate school facilities, students who live in far-flung areas, and insufficient resources. In addition, teaching methods are outdated already, and schools lack necessary

equipment such as laptops, computers, and televisions, given that technology is an integral part of education.

Moreover, the wages for teachers are not enough, compared to the salary of teachers from other countries. In addition to daily struggles with congested classrooms, almost not functioning facilities, and a shortage of instructional materials, the work of teachers is hardly compensated, which further complicates the issues in our education system.

We will never resolve a particular problem if we will not look into everything that contributes to it. Keeping our eyes open, admitting that there are problems, and stopping to blame someone are the first key steps in combatting the deterioration of the quality of education in our country. Again, being a nation of English speakers is not the sole culprit.

We must go beyond the surface.

References:
https://cpbrd.congress.gov.ph/images/PDF%20Attachments/Facts%20in%20Figures/FF2024-11_Philippines_Perf_in_the_2018_and_2021_PISA.pdf