

## FOSTERING CULTURAL LITERACY IN THE PHILIPPINES: THE ROLE OF CULTURE-BASED EDUCATION

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The Philippines has a wide range of concerns and cultural diversities when it comes to education and culture. Surely, academic performance is a top priority but it is as important to instill a sense of nationalism and good values at school. It also calls for an overhaul of education towards culture-oriented subject matter, with the inclusion of Filipino traditions in the curriculum to produce a well-informed populace.

Culture-based education goes beyond teaching the history and traditions of the Philippines. The program intends to create a learning culture in which students engage in their cultural traditions and develop their identities while enhancing critical thinking skills.

When we integrate traditional knowledge systems like Indigenous healing methods and sustainable agriculture techniques or include students learning from local oral traditions and storytelling, students are enabled to be rooted in their cultures with wisdom traceable over centuries.

The Philippines has over 170 languages spoken throughout the archipelago. Regional literature and languages in the curriculum enhance the cognitive abilities of students and develop greater communication skills in along with sustaining cultural heritage.

At its heart, Filipino culture is rooted in ancient methods of dance, music, and theater. Artistic appreciation is cultivated by integrating different art components into the course.

Through community partnerships, students can learn directly about the beauty and complexity of their Filipino cultural roots with field trips, volunteer work, and local performances by traditional artists and cultural practitioners.

By promoting cross-examination of Indigenous cultural practices and thoughts culture-based education instills the acceptance of different advocating views and approaches and societal sensitivity. There are many benefits to culture-focused education. It allows students to construct a well-thought-of identity (Duncombe & Marsden, 1993) and a sense of belonging within the educational institution. When students understand their cultural history, they can feel proud of it, which can have a positive effect on confidence and self-esteem. Students are empowered to be engaged and contribute as citizens.

Students who get instruction based on culture are better equipped to make significant contributions to society and their communities because it encourages civic involvement and critical thinking. By including cultural components in the curriculum, students take an active role in protecting and reviving their cultural heritage, which furthers the cause of cultural preservation and renewal. They grow tolerant of and knowledgeable about different cultures. Interaction with people from other cultural backgrounds cultivates tolerance, empathy, and respect for other lifestyles.

In the Philippines, communities, legislators, and educators must work together to adopt culture-based learning. It requires a mental adjustment, an openness to accepting cultural diversity, and a dedication to giving pupils a comprehensive and fulfilling educational experience.

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