

## THE VALUE OF EDUCATION IN THE PRESENT TIMES

by:

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With the quality of education, we have these days, where the Philippines has mostly been tagged as being the lowest in achievement when we talk about the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranking, some people tend to question how Filipinos, in the present times, value education.

Historically, it could be noted that the greatest influence of the American regime on the Filipinos could be education (with the Thomasites providing the formal classroom setting after the 333 years of Spanish invasion where Filipinos were somehow deprived of formal schooling). Filipinos in general seem to put great value on education.

Well-off parents and guardians tend to send their children to the most expensive schools to provide them with the best education they could ever give. Families with socio-economic backgrounds in the middle class or even those who live beyond the poverty line work hard just to send their children to school – mostly in public schools that offer free and accessible education for all.

For the past decades, education in the Philippines seems to have taken the front seat among the common Filipino families. Despite the many different family needs like food and shelter, education has also been among the top priorities.

In one of the studies published by the Philippine Journal of Psychology, authored by Retuya et al. (2017), entitled "The Priming Effect of Family Obligation on Filipino Students' Academic Performance," a survey revealed that 98% of Filipino youth rated having a good education as very important, or another put, as rather important. Such

Filipinos surveyed seem to value education of prime importance. However, the same study also maintained that despite such value given to education, it does not seem to be so evident nowadays.

In real classroom settings, teachers can meet parents who show very little interest in how their children perform in school. Some of them, when often called to school for a conference to talk about their children's behavior and performance, tend to show disgust or disinterest. Some would even just tell the teacher to drop their children out if they cannot follow in school – seemingly dissatisfied yet caring less.

Gone were the days when parents would even beg teachers to allow their children to pass even if they fell short in achievement and performance. There were parents who would ask for additional tasks or assignments just to earn some points to add up to failing grades.

These days, however, some parents tend to just let it pass if their children cut classes, do not do assignments, or do not participate in class. It seems like the value of education among some parents has diminished over time.

It is a sad fate that we see these kinds of parents in school. It is just hoped that we can bring back the sense of value in education so that families can realize and experience the value of education and how it can help their children achieve better things in life.

#### *References:*

The Priming Effect of Family Obligation on Filipino Students' Academic Performance

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