

ADDRESSING READING ILLITERACY AND NUMERACY CHALLENGES

by:

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Reading illiteracy and numeracy difficulties remain significant barriers to student achievement in Philippine schools, particularly in public education. Many learners, especially those in the early grades, struggle to acquire foundational skills necessary for academic success.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has launched the Brigada Pagbasa initiative, a nationwide movement under the National Reading Program. This program engages various stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and community volunteers, to provide reading interventions to struggling learners. Through guided reading sessions, storytelling activities, and reading camps, the program cultivates a love for reading while improving comprehension skills. Teachers are also trained to use differentiated instruction to address the varying needs of their students.

In numeracy, schools implement the Numeracy Intervention Program for Grades 1-3 Learners, which focuses on developing basic math skills. This program uses interactive strategies like games, manipulatives, and real-life problem-solving to make mathematics engaging and less intimidating. Teachers are equipped with techniques to identify and address gaps in students' numeracy skills, ensuring they achieve mastery of essential mathematical concepts like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

To complement these initiatives, schools conduct regular diagnostic assessments to determine learners' proficiency levels in reading and math. These assessments guide the implementation of remediation programs, such as pull-out classes and one-on-one

tutoring sessions, tailored to the specific needs of struggling students. Additionally, programs like Every Child a Reader Program (ECARP) and Teach for the Philippines Literacy Camps bolster efforts to enhance foundational learning in reading and numeracy.

While these programs have shown promising results, continuous improvements are necessary to sustain their impact. Strengthening home-school partnerships is crucial, as parental involvement plays a key role in reinforcing literacy and numeracy skills outside the classroom. Expanding access to resources like books, digital learning tools, and math kits can further enhance learning opportunities. By fostering collaboration among educators, parents, and communities, schools can create an environment where every learner has the chance to achieve literacy and numeracy proficiency, unlocking pathways to lifelong learning and success.

References:

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