

BENEFITS OF MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE IN TEACHING CHILDREN

by:

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Since the implementation of the K to 12 curricula in the school year 2012-2013 different approaches to teaching were introduced including the mother tongue-based multilingual education. Through this approach, children are able to learn their local language as early as grade 1, languages including in this curriculum are the following: Bahasa Sug, Bikol, Cebuano, Chabacano, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Kapampangan, Maguindanaoan, Meranao, Pangasinense, Tagalog, and Waray, this way they will understand the foundation of their native language and can be able to learn Filipino and English as their secondary language.

As this approach may be new, however, it is beneficial for both the students and teachers.

Mother tongue-based multilingual education encourages students at a young age to express more of themselves making them participate in class without fear of being judged and making mistakes. Also, this type of learning helps students understand the lessons more since they are already familiar with the language being used and off course build their self-esteem as they know that they can express their thoughts clearly knowing that they will be understood. Though this approach is beneficial to the development of students, however, it creates confusion and a lot of challenges from the teachers' end on how to apply this teaching method in the classroom.

Problems regarding implementation of the curriculum arises since there are a lot of factors to be considered before pushing through with the new approach of teaching.

Learning materials under a mother tongue language are one of the concerns regarding this approach—we have to consider the accuracy of each material so we can teach it properly to the students, terminologies, spelling, sentence construction, familiarity with the words being used should be considered in publishing materials for this curriculum so no confusion should create to the children, also, the fluency of each teacher to the language in the region where they are teaching should also be considered. Thus, these challenges may affect students in developing their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

It is good that our education sector is finding a way to improve the quality of education in our country that will create more well-rounded individuals and will mold future generations into competent professionals in the workplace, however, we must always take into consideration the advantages and disadvantages of each strategy, in that way we can help prepare our teachers in the implementation of the new ways of learning to the students. The mother tongue-based multilingual education is a great start to uplift every child's confidence, self-esteem, and participation in classes and aims to avoid confusion, fear of judgment, and bullying inside the classroom. Successful implementation of the curriculum leads to a healthy relationship between and among teachers, students and parents and eliminates communication and language barrier.

References:

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