

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE: TEACHERS DRIVING INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

*by:*

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The Fuller Method is a reading program used in our country to teach reading to young children. It was developed by an Australian priest, Rev. Fr. Leo James English. He introduced this method during his missionary work in the mid-20th century in the Philippines. He noticed that most Filipino children cannot read in English or Filipino. He named this method after a school called "Fuller" in Baclaran, Parañaque, where it was widely implemented. It is now widely used among Catholic schools, private schools, and some public schools.

The Fuller method follows a step-by-step process. It is a combination of the alphabet, phonics, and word recognition. The first step is to teach children to recognize letters between vowels and consonants using charts, songs, and flashcards to reinforce letters. Once they could identify the letters and their shapes, they moved on to learning the sounds of each letter using drills and repetition techniques. After learning each letter's sound, they will blend sounds to form syllables and short words. They might learn word families like cat, bat, mat, hen, pen, and ten. This enables them to see word patterns and makes reading easier as they practice. They will eventually read sentences and short paragraphs if they have mastered reading simple words. The Fuller method is fun and engaging because it uses songs, games, and contests. It motivates the children to read and inculcates a love for reading.

In Antipolo Elementary School in Leyte, teachers used the Fuller Method via audio-visual presentation for their Grade 2 pupils. They noticed that pupils who learned to read with this method could read better than pupils who used the traditional reading

practices. Similarly, in the Domnar-Lopez Copada Integrated Indigenous People School in Sarangani, Grade 3 pupils improved their reading skills after using the Fuller method reading technique.

The Fuller Method is beneficial, especially to early graders, because it is clear and has a structured sequence. The Fuller method also emphasizes phonics, which allows children to identify the relationship between the letter and its sound. This helps them decode unfamiliar words on their own. It also improves their reading comprehension. Learners who understand phonics become more adept at tackling new vocabulary, making reading more enjoyable. This enjoyment is crucial, as it encourages children to engage with texts more frequently, ultimately leading to improved fluency and a love of reading. Likewise, it is adaptable to different learning styles because it uses visual, auditory, and kinesthetic strategies. The Fuller Method ensures that all pupils can connect with the material in ways that resonate with them. This multi-faceted approach caters to individual learning preferences and keeps pupils engaged and motivated, making the learning experience both effective and fun.

Today, the Fuller method is improved using technology. Some schools use videos, computers, and online games. It makes the lesson more exciting and helps the young to read better. Teachers must use this method and not settle with traditional reading techniques because this method is systematic, easy, and effective, especially with large classes. Teachers face several non-readers; this fuller method is an effective way to uplift the reading skills of Filipino learners.

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