

HUMAN RIGHTS

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What are Human Rights? Are these applicable in our country? As defined Human Rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. There are so many issues to be dealt when we talk about Human Rights, but my opinion will be on Education. As an educator, it is important that I will be concerned with what is happening in our Educational System. We all know that education is as important as man's life. Education is the answer to the development of one's country.

Every Filipino is entitled of his/her right to be educated and be successful citizen in his/her own country. But I am saddened to know that our educational system is rotten by its poor implementation by the officials. As time goes on, our educational system is getting worse. The quality of education is not competitive compared to the quality of education from other countries. The quality of education in elementary and high school especially in public schools manifest a poor performance when students step in the tertiary level. Students when they reach tertiary level especially if they enroll in a private school sometimes cannot cope up with the demands in the private institution, especially in the use of computers or any technology.

I guess we have seen on television the situation of the public schools especially in the far flung area. Aren't they an eye sore to us educators? When you see a dilapidated classroom, broken or rustic chairs, faded chalkboard, and sometimes a flooded classroom when heavy rain comes because of the hole ceiling. How can students achieve a quality education with this tormented environment? Now tell me, are these students given the equal rights when it comes to quality education? No decent classroom, insufficient facilities, inadequate instructional materials and textbooks. Whereas, private schools students enjoy the pleasure of air conditioned classrooms, adequate textbooks and instructional materials. How can learning be achieved if instructional materials are insufficient with congested and poor ventilated classroom? No textbooks for individual student, but instead textbook is being shared with other students. What is worse, one book with three students. No wonder some students do not know how to read, what an educational practice?

If I am not mistaken, our national government has allocated sizeable budget for Education, but where does the money go? Why can't DepEd provide decent school building and facilities to our public school especially in the far flung area? In a way, students will be motivated to go to school. In cases where typhoon strikes in our country, DepEd should immediately provide rehabilitation to schools affected by natural calamities, so that classes will

not be affected. Isn't it an insult on the part of the government that most aids are coming from NGO's or private sector? Let me cite one example, while I was watching Eat Bulaga, a noontime

show in channel 7, I was deeply moved by the advocacy of the program that is to help provide good and comfortable learning to Filipino students. In one of their segments called "Juan for All, All for Juan", the staffs go to different barangays and collect plastic bottles. These plastic bottles will be converted into monobloc chairs. The finished monobloc chairs will be donated to schools that need chairs for their classroom. I was touched with the cause because the objective is to help the youth, for all we know they are the hope of our nation. Not only Eat Bulaga gives chairs but also helps build classrooms especially in the far flung areas. Should the government carry out these lapses to the NGO's or private sector? I don't think so, because our government has enough funds to provide all the needs of the students to improve the quality education.

Lastly, if our country's aim is to zero-in illiterate Filipinos, then they should strengthen their educational programs in order they can solve these existing problems in our educational system. They should provide program for the out-of school youth in all regions in the country. Increase scholarship programs to all poor and yet deserving students. Provide effective instructional materials and strengthen the IT program so that learners can compete in the demands of information technology. All these programs afford greater opportunity to all students to utilize their knowledge and skills, so that they too can be productive, effective and competitive citizens of our country.

Since our President adheres to his advocacy of "Change or Pagbabago", I guess our officials should change as well. Stop corruption! Think of the future of our Filipino children. If this will be achieved, then Human Rights have a place in our country.