

Is the Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program really the solution?

Last year 2010 the Department on Lower Education or DepEd announced that they are passing a proposal or more commonly known as the K+12 program that would add 2 more years of education for public schools to better equip them for higher education/college education and the world market.

According to the K+12 program or the Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program, 1 more year would be added to elementary education and another year added to secondary education. According to the President Noynoy Aquino, *"We need to add two years to our basic education. Those who can afford pay up to fourteen years of schooling before university. Thus, their children are getting into the best universities and the best jobs after graduation. I want at least 12 years for our public school children to give them an even chance at succeeding."*

This is why he is strongly agreeing to having this passed in DepEd. The government is very much concerned that the high school graduates we have in our current public schools systems are not competent enough to enter higher education or will be knowledgeable enough to enter some job opportunities making them more vulnerable to slack of and be part of the percentage that are unemployed. Based on the National Achievement Test or NAT, the passing rate for grade school is 69.21% for year 2009-2010, which increased by 24%, but still further improvement are still needed. For high school the passing rate is 46.38% only, which decreased from 47.40% from last year 2008-2009.

I believe how education is our primary equipment for having a good future ahead of us. This is why a lot of parents invest in quality education even if it means they have to fall short on other things. Regarding the DepEd's K+12 program, I don't really think it's the solution for our public schools to be more equip and competent for higher education or for the world market. Adding 2 more years to Lower education for public schools would not only burden their families financial but also, there are no guarantees that adding 2 educational years would really equip them and prepare them for the working market. I don't think that the current curriculum of public schools lack in years of education to prepare them for their future, I think that its what the current curriculum is consist of that needs to be reformed for students to be prepared in the future.

I think that the government should strengthen focus more on making the kind of education they are giving now to be more effective in terms of better academic preparedness not only for the students, but mostly for the teacher/educators as well. I think that the government should also focus on the teachers teaching at the public schools because they are the ones feeding/transferring information to the students that would make them prepared for their future. The government should focus on giving the teachers a chance to improve their teaching skills and capacities so that they will have more knowledge of the subject they are teaching. Its not that the teachers in public schools are not competent or not trained enough, its just that lets be honest, being a public school teacher isn't really a profession, it's more of a

vocation. They are over worked but under-paid, plus being under the DepEd or any government agency system means that, your salary doesn't really always come on time and in full.

The stress that teachers have to put up with in a daily basis is no joke. Some public schools settings would be that a classroom would consist of 80 students with only 1 teacher. Imagine how much energy and attention the teacher needs to give and exert on. Class usually only last an hour, how can a teacher give an entire lecture in an hour with 80 students? They wouldn't even have enough time to give a minute for every student in an hour class. Interaction between students and teachers are very important, this is one way that the teachers can really instil to their students what their trying to teach, and this is clearly lacking in the public school setting.

The government should focus on minimizing the number of students per class by putting up more schools that can accommodate more students. A healthy teaching environment would consist only of 40 students per class, and 80++ is just not a good student-teacher ratio. So instead of the government investing millions of money implementing the K+12 program, why not just use this money to put up more schools or more benefits for the teachers?

Princess Anne Lao
DLSU/BS-PSYC

Reference:

<http://www.deped.gov.ph/cpanel/uploads/issuancelmg/K12new.pdf>