

STANCE OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

Camille Anne C. Geronia

Teacher III, Hermosa National High School

The Philippines is regarded as one of the most English-speaking countries in the world, with the majority of the population speaking the language at some degree. English is spoken by more than 14 million Filipinos and has long been one of the country's official languages. It is the language of trade and law, as well as the principal medium of instruction in school.

Another of the Philippines' benefits is its language fluency, which has assisted the economy and even moved the Philippines beyond India as the world's top voice outsourcing destination in 2012. An influx of international learners of English is on the rise as a result of the relatively more affordable but high-quality English as a Second Language.

At a recent roundtable discussion hosted by the British Council, key stakeholders from the government, academia, private sector, and non-government sectors acknowledged that, while the Philippines is doing well in terms of English proficiency, questions about how much of a competitive advantage it still is for the country were raised. The stakeholders agreed that the country needed to step up its efforts to improve English teaching and learning if it was to become a crucial employment skill. This is a project that has the potential to increase the Philippines' competitive advantage in this region of the world, especially as the ASEAN Economic Union approaches. In this regard, our country continues to increase language proficiency in order to stay up with the most recent educational developments.

As a result, teachers should emphasize the importance of English as a tool of communication rather than a list of information to memorize. It is also necessary to ensure that students master the English language in its entirety, as required by the K-12 basic education frameworks. Finally, sharing best practices in English teaching and learning with partner countries throughout the world is an important aspect of our work as instructors. English holds a special place in the Philippine educational system, and sustaining high English standards is critical for the country's economy and future growth.

References:

<https://www.britishcouncil.ph/teach/state-english-philippines-should-we-be-concerned2#:~:text=The%20Philippines%20is%20recognized%20globally,more%20than%2014%20million%20Filipinos.>