

## EMPOWERING THE FUTURE GENERATION THROUGH K+12 EDUCATION

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It has been years since the government implemented the K+12 education in the Philippines which initially gained mixed reactions from the public. Many, at first, have become skeptical in changing the system of education pointing out that this would only add more list on the drop-out rates of students. Others perceive that this shift would be another burden for Filipino families who are having a hard time sending their children to school. Despite of different moves to oppose K+12 education, none of these rationale stopped Former President Benigno Aquino III to sign the Republic Act 10533 otherwise known as “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013” on May 15, 2013.

Before this significant change in Education System of our country, Philippines is the last nation in Asia to implement the K+12 system. According to (Trance & Trance, 2019) the K+12 curriculum is designed to prepare graduates to meet the challenges confronting today's generation. However, the implementation of the K+12 curriculum raises a myriad of challenges that the government must solve. Hence, the passage of this reform is high time for Filipinos to be globally competent.

While K+12 education gives a longer years of study compared from the previous system, it envisions to produce students who are equipped with the right skills, one who is ready to face the challenging demand of globalization. From previous 10 years of education, K+12 which stands for Kindergarten plus 12 years of basic education gives advantage to students to be more ready in the real world.

However, more than this great vision, the new education system requires more responsibility not only on the part of students but more so on the part of the academe including the government. In order to experience a competency-based educational environment, (Sturgis & Org, 2015) reiterated that teachers should start bringing innovative ideas to school leaders and breaking new ground of what education looks like by making learning opportunities with students which propel the boundaries of school walls and time by leveraging technology.

It is always a challenge for every teacher and institution to raise the bar of education especially now that we are more open in the idea of internationalization. Based on the study of (Karthick Kumar et al., 2016) it is apparent that a unified learning system will undoubtedly serve the objective of technological innovation by enhancing the quality of education across all disciplines of Science, Technology, and Management. Making our students comparable to those of other countries necessitates additional budget for the education sector. It is not the system alone that needs to be improved but also the facilities, equipment, and infrastructure. Needless to say, the higher salary for teachers.

It is my high hope that the start of education reform in the country would lead to the holistic development of the country. The challenge is getting bigger more than ever. Teachers need to strive more to give the best quality education for students. The government, on the other hand, needs to ensure that it provides the needs of education sector to deliver its mandate effectively.

K+12 education poses a great promise of development for our country if implemented successfully. After all, investing in our students is investing for our future.

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