

## REVIEWING THE EDUCATION CURRICULUM: IS THERE A NEED TO MODIFY A CURRICULUM?

*by:*

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President Marcos Jr. had instructed the Department of Education to review the implementation of the K to 12 curricula. He planned to use the English language as the sole language of instruction in Science and Mathematics. He also added that the curriculum for Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and diploma courses be reviewed to address the job mismatch.

The K to 12 programs were enacted into law known as RA 10533 in 2013. The implementation of this curriculum in the Philippine basic education system was for the Philippine graduates and professionals to be mutually recognized globally. Especially, it had been reported that some Filipino graduates working abroad were underemployed due to a lack of 2 years of basic education.

It was reported in 2018 by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) that 15-year-old students had low scores in reading, Science and Mathematics. They also blamed the forced use of English in education and the insufficient funds for public education for this poor result.

Except in English and Filipino subjects, the Mother Tongue-Based-Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) is being used from Kinder to Grade 3. It was reported that due to the linguistic diversity of students in the Philippines the MTB-MLE had been faulty. Procurement and funding issues for MTB-MLE learning materials for different subjects had been raised.

The implementation of the K to 12 program is for senior high school graduates to be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for employment. Sadly, employment for some graduates had been elusive. Many companies in the Philippines preferred applicants with at least 2 years in college. This policy lowers the employability of senior high school graduates.

Every curriculum needs to be reviewed and revised is there a need to in order to cope with the needs of the community. Thorough research and investigations are necessary before any action occurs since it would be future of the students and the nation as a whole could be possibly affected.

The poor result of 15-year-old students in reading, Science, and Mathematics were just the data that had been collected after an assessment for those areas of learning. There was no basis for their statements in which they had blamed the forceful use of the English language that had resulted in the poor academic achievement of the students. There should be concrete evidence that this poor result was an effect caused by the “forceful” use of English as a medium of instruction. Hence, this study should be done all across the country.

Teachers in kindergarten to grade 3 have to make their own learning materials due to the linguistic diversities of students all over the country as one of the encountered challenges in MTB-MLE. These learning materials should undergo review for quality control as well as for the standardization of learning of every grade level. The Department of education should also review the number of working hours that the teachers have to work for both teachings and in making MTB-MLE learning materials.

To assist the graduates of senior high school to easily land a job, the government may give incentive such as tax exemptions or a decrease of tax to be paid by the company for hiring senior high school graduates in positions that they may be qualified for. Nevertheless, it was the company's discretion of whom to hire; will it be someone who

was a graduate of senior high school or someone who has at least 2 years in college. Some students who are financially capable would choose to pursue a college education for better employability.

We could hardly deny the fact that some schools prioritize ICT-related strands since we are already in the digital age; nevertheless, we should not deny the fact that the Philippines is an agricultural country. The Department of Education should also review what strands the school should prioritize in accordance with its geography, industry, and the livelihood of the community. Senior High Schools in rural and in coastal areas should offer strands in agriculture, fisheries, and entrepreneurship. This way, graduates of these strands may be able to work in the agro or fishery industry, venture into business or proceed to college.

The different curricula across the wide array of disciplines in higher education should undergo reforms in accordance with the current and future needs of the country and of the world as a whole.

Job mismatch of college graduates should be studied carefully since even in government offices, we could notice this. Some professionals who were working in government offices had a job mismatch. Some graduates, didn't want to practice their profession or didn't have the chance to practice it; meanwhile, some would want a regular position in the government for the sake of financial stability.

Some college graduates who were working in private institutions and companies were underemployed this was due to several factors. Data of the different alumni regarding their employment status as well as for the reasons of being either unemployed or underemployed should also be transcribed in support of any curriculum reforms.

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