

IS K-12 CURRICULUM EFFECTIVE IN THE PHILIPPINES?

by:

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President Benigno Aquino III's signing of the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 enabled the K to 12 programs. Following kindergarten, it attempts to provide a 12-year education cycle to Filipino students. Angola and Djibouti are the other two countries in Asia with ten-year pre-university cycles, while the Philippines is the final Asian country. A new senior high school program was launched across the country in June 2016, far exceeding enrollment projections despite growing concern over high dropout rates. Numerous segments of society resisted the country's implementation of a K-12 curriculum. Since 2011, opponents have been candid and forthright about their primary concerns. They assert that the government is unprepared for the new system and that it would ultimately result in increased costs for children and their parents. Despite the government's efforts to derail the program, it has maintained its commitment to the new educational system, claiming that it will benefit both Filipino students and the country's economy.

The Department of Education (DepEd) of the Philippines emphasizes the country's readiness for a significant transition in the educational system. Indeed, it has been successful in addressing the lack of classrooms, educators, and textbooks in general. Stakeholders were consulted throughout the planning process, which concluded with their approval. What are the advantages of pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education?

Due to the growth of the K-12 system, kids are now expected to graduate a year or two later than in the past. It's a good thing, because graduates will be considered young adults, according to the Department of Education. As a result, children entering college

will be better prepared to meet the significantly increased learning needs of higher education. In contrast to the former system, K-12 does not require all students to attend college following high school (SHS). Indeed, this strategy enables students to make their own choices. It is possible that they will not attend college, particularly if their job path does not involve academics. The good news is that SHS graduates will be prepared to flourish in a wide array of specialized industries (through electives). In the Philippines' primary and secondary school systems, math, science, and language abilities are stressed. Students will receive a more demanding education under the new curriculum through tracks. Each track is intended to provide students sufficient time to master the content and hone their skills. As a result, K-12 graduates will be better equipped to compete for employment in a highly competitive labor market, thereby increasing their worldwide competitiveness.

The Enhanced Basic Education Act's K-12 education has not yet been reviewed in terms of graduate employment, and it is premature to draw conclusions. The Department of Education would get an estimated P1.37 trillion in the next 2022 budget plan. This represents an increase over the PP629.8 billion spent in 2019. The House of Representatives increased the DepEd budget by P850 million during the realignment of the proposed budget, with P650 million earmarked for the K-12 program. As a result, the Department of Education (DepEd) must demonstrate that the K-12 basic education curriculum is beneficial in terms of graduates' employability and entrepreneurial capabilities.

References:

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