

BASIC EDUCATION: ENHANCING ITS QUALITY

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The Philippines has an urgent and critical need to enhance its basic education system due to some reasons. Serious reasons that must not be ignored in order to be globally competitive. Here are the bases why basic education must be improved.

According to Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, the Philippines are the only country in Asia that uses a 10-year basic education curriculum in the world.

Results for Grade 6 in SY 2009-2010 in the National Achievement Test, show only 69.21% over-all passing rate.

Meanwhile, Trends in International Mathematics and Science study (TIMSS) in 2003 shows that the Philippines ranked 34th out of 38 countries in Secondary Math and

43rd out of 46 countries in Science and based from the 2008 survey, the Philippines ranked the lowest in the fields of Science and Mathematics.

Based from this information, the poor quality of basic education is reflected in the low achievement scores of Filipino students. Many students who finished basic education do not have mastery of basic competencies.

The results are very alarming that the Department of Education find ways to enhance the quality of education especially in elementary and high school which serve as the foundation of every learning. The program seeks to provide a quality 12-year basic education that every Filipino is entitled to. Its purpose is not only to add 2 years of

education but more importantly, to enhance and make every learners well equipped with the competencies and knowledge of being the 21st century learners. Thus, making them globally competitive and productive.

K to 12 Program is indeed ambitious step but if all the people and agency in the government work hand in hand, education will reach its full potential.

References:

Facing the K-12 Challenge by Felicito S. Caluyo, Ph. D., TIMSS