

PROS AND CONS OF K TO 12 IN THE PHILIPPINES

by:

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Education is one of the most valuable assets a person can have. It is one of the most powerful weapons available and can be used intentionally, particularly in the Philippines.

For the past few years, the Philippines has been the only country in Asia that offers a 10-year school cycle until 2016. The K-12 program was first introduced in 2013, was part of President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III’s Educational Reform Program, and was made up of two laws: Republic Act 10157 (Kindergarten Education Act) and Republic Act 10533 (Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013), resulting in the addition of a two-year program or the senior high school in the academic cycle. Generally, K-12 programs’ mission is to provide a high-quality education. According to the Philippines News Agency, K-12 programs’ purpose is to enhance learners’ basic skills, produce more competent citizens, and prepare graduates for lifelong learning and employment. Moreover, students are expected to be better equipped for college and different entrepreneurial activities. As well, because students will choose their tracks as early as grade 10, they can master their skills and abilities to pursue their desired careers in the future. Lastly, students will learn more about various disciplines and fields, which will aid in their preparation for and awareness of the job market.

Despite creating more productive and efficient learners, it also hurts students. As a result of the implementation of the K-12 program, students are destined to study for two more years. Disadvantages also apply to the government, the Department of Education, teachers, and parents. Especially in terms of finances. The government and the Department of Education experienced more difficulties in allocating funds; the lack

of school facilities is very evident. There is also a shortage of school materials, such as books and furniture like chairs and tables, and training workshops for teachers. Concerning teachers, they are obliged to take training and study certain fields to have adequate knowledge and teach students most effectively. Additionally, the longer school year makes it difficult for the parents, who are the student's primary source of support financially, because they must give their child more money for school expenses.

In the end, the government will have everything it needs to provide high-quality education and allow students to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding. Regardless of the benefits and drawbacks of implementing the K-12 Education Program, its fundamental purpose is to produce excellent citizens while reducing poverty. And aim for the good development of the country.

References:

Philippine News Agency (2019). Pros & Cons – K TO 12.

<https://youtu.be/GLxqSReVgLA>