

STRIKING A BALANCE: EXAMINING THE PROS AND CONS OF MASS PROMOTION IN EDUCATION

by:

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"No Child will be Left Behind" a tagline that Department of Education said once. It means that every enrolled child is subject to promotion to the next grade level, regardless of their poor attendance in class, academic performance, or readiness for the next step. Teachers are obliged to promote learners despite the different challenges that the learners may experience in the long run. However, teachers and the entire DepEd community still see the pros and cons of implementing the Mass Promotion Policy. In line with this, here are some noticeable effects of Mass Promotion in the Philippine Educational system:

Advantages of Mass Promotion:

Reducing the number of grade repetitions annually.

Students who repeat a grade level experience negative effects on an emotional aspect, such as low self-esteem and motivation, that can affect their self-confidence in the future. It is believed that when the student moves on to the next grade level, just right for his age, the total number of young students who experience this will decrease. Mass Promotion helps the students graduate just right for their academic journey.

Fairness and diversity

Mass promotion aims to furnish an equal amount of opportunities for all students, regardless of their background, capabilities, and academic performances. This policy ensures that every learner will get promoted, and no student will be left behind due to temporary intricacies and traverse or other related factors that may lead the students to

hold back. Thus, Mass promotion is believed to be the key to better enhancing the learners in the long run.

Simplifying administrative workloads

Mass promotion helps the administrative personnel simplify their work by eradicating the need for individual student evaluations and critical decisions in promotion. This can save more time, effort, and resources, and it works for both educators and administrators. By doing so, personnel under the Department of Education can now focus on more serious issues and challenges that the institution is facing.

Disadvantages of Mass Promotion.

Learning gaps.

Due to the congested curriculum and a lot of learning competencies that every learner should acquire per grade level, advancing on to the next grade level without obtaining the necessary knowledge, skills, and expertise from the previous grade level can lead to more serious learning gaps. If this continuously happens, learning gaps could accumulate over the course of time and hinder academic development.

Lower Academic Standards.

Because of the Mass Promotion Policy, the academic standard is gradually lowering as it aims to promote students regardless of their academic performances. This led the students not to make a lot of effort and to strive more for excellence. This affects the core values of perseverance, hard work, and dedication because the learners are aware that even if they don't give more effort to promote, it will still happen after 10 months at their current grade level.

Long-term consequences.

The student will face difficulties in a higher grade level or later stages of their education if they are consistently promoted to a higher level without acquiring the essential skills and knowledge from their previous grade level. In line with this, incompetent learners and drop-out rates will increase, and overall educational outcomes will suffer.

It is important to note that the effectiveness of mass promotion can be influenced by different aspects, such as the quality of teachers, the availability of essential support services, and the overall system of education. A balanced approach that considers individual student needs and provides appropriate interventions and support may be needed to eradicate or mitigate the potential drawbacks of mass promotion.

References:

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