

ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION

by:

Imelda S. Corpuz

Head Teacher III, St. Francis National High School

Schools serve as avenues for learning and holistic development of learners since time immemorial. Education has given theories that feed the psyche of every learner. As expounded by the Human Capital Theory, the progress of the nation is determined by the quality of the education gained by the populace of one's country.

Aren't you wondering how Germany and Japan rise from the ashes after the 2nd World War? For those who pause and think for an answer, the solution that they use was empowering their citizens with upgraded education. In the Human Capital Theory, education is an investment needed for the national growth and economic development of the country. Imagine, the United States of America is still rationing foods for their residents few years after the war but Germany is one of the leading economic giants in the world during that time. The role of education in their economic growth is immense for they give the highest priority in education.

In our country, the right of Filipino learners to a quality and equitable education is stipulated in Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Unfortunately, some Filipino learners were not able to avail this right due to poverty. Wastage in education shows a higher percentage due to failures and drop-out rates of students brought by different social blights. Also, these serve as indicators for the poor performance of schools with high wastage rates. Aside from that, these signify the forfeited chance of those learners to be part of the national socio-economic development of our country.

In this light, the economics of education shows that the person with higher educational attainment will be an asset for the country but those who did not study will eventually belong in the marginalized sector of the community that needs immediate help from the government to improve their socio-economic conditions. I know that you will point out that poverty is a never-ending cycle but you also need to realize that the curse of poverty will be broken through education, especially during our time when learners do not only develop functional literacy but are equipped with life-long skills suited for the D-VUCAD world.

Remember, the D-VUCAD world is full of land mines and surprises but education will detonate the fiery effects of these changes in the national development of our country.

References:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/report/transition-events-dynamics-poverty/human-capital-theory>

<http://www3.grips.ac.jp/~otsuka/Workshop2009/paper/S5%20Godo.pdf>

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/why-education-matters-economic-development#:~:text=Overall%2C%20another%20year%20of%20schooling,investment%20an%20individual%20could%20make%3A&text=Education%20employs%20about%20five%20percent,labor%20market%20%E2%80%93%20have%20been%20increasing.>