

## BEYOND GRADUATION: BUILDING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

by:

**Rose Darren G. Buenaventura**

*Master Teacher I, Mariveles Senior High School – Sitio Mabuhay*

A standout feature of the K to 12 Curriculum in the Philippines is its emphasis on giving students real-world skills—like drafting a business plan or fixing a circuit—that open doors to a range of career paths. Of its three paths out—higher education, a job, or starting a business—launching your own venture stands out, sparking self-reliance and fresh ideas like the scent of sawdust in a new workshop. In today’s rapidly shifting economy, senior high students are urged to dive into entrepreneurship—learning the basics in class, then feeling the rush firsthand at a bustling school bazaar, a lively product fair, or while piecing together their own business plan.

Teaching entrepreneurship isn’t just about memorizing theories—it’s about rolling up your sleeves and testing ideas in the real world. It focuses on hands-on learning, letting students turn bright ideas into real ventures—a sketch on paper becoming a bustling market stall. At a school bazaar, students get to sell something they’ve created—a jar of homemade jam, perhaps—and put their lessons in marketing, finance, and customer service to work. These activities sharpen their entrepreneurial mindset by throwing them into real challenges—like juggling budgets and finding clever ways to get the word out about their business. Studies show that hands-on experiences, like the buzz and bustle of a local bazaar, spark creativity, foster teamwork, and sharpen problem-solving—skills every successful entrepreneur needs (Rae, 2006).

Another hands-on way to stay engaged is creating a business plan—mapping out goals, steps, and even sketching a quick budget on paper. Students need to map out their ideas and put them on paper, describing the market they’ve studied, the numbers they

expect to hit, and how they'll run things day to day. This activity sparks critical thinking, pushes you to make tough calls, and builds resilience when you're facing risk and the unknown—like choosing a path in dense fog. Kuratko (2016) stresses that entrepreneurship education gives students the tools to think creatively and take initiative, helping them spot and shape opportunities not just for themselves but for the people around them.

By adding entrepreneurship to the K-12 curriculum, the government signals its bigger goal: turning out graduates ready not just to hunt for jobs, but to build them—like a student launching a small food stall right after graduation. When schools show young people how to spot an opportunity and turn it into a real venture—like selling homemade bread at the weekend market—they help spark a culture of innovation and drive economic growth. At the same time, teachers step in as both guides and mentors, walking students through each stage of their entrepreneurial journey—sometimes with nothing more than a whiteboard sketch to spark the next idea.

In senior high, entrepreneurship isn't just another class—it's a life skill, as practical as learning to budget your first paycheck. When students run a stall at a busy bazaar, draft a business plan, or dive into other hands-on ventures, they pick up resilience, adaptability, and the knack for leading a team. These experiences equip them to earn a living and, more importantly, to step into their role as citizens who help shape a better future—like joining a neighborhood meeting and speaking up for change.

## *References:*

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Rae, D. (2006). Entrepreneurial learning: Conceptual frameworks and applications. Routledge.

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