#PISA RESULTS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT. AN EYE OPENER

by:

Gideon V. Roberts
Teacher III, Kabalutan Elementary School

One of the hottest and trending issues in the Philippine Education system is the 2018 PISA results, Programme for International Student Assessment, which is one of the most famous students’ assessments worldwide. Since year 2000, PISA is conducted every 3 years which primarily measures 15 years old students’ ability to use their reading, mathematics, and science knowledge and skills in order to meet and face the real-life challenges. As for the records, this is the very first time of our country to join this renowned assessment. From the data presented, among 79 participating countries, the Philippines scored the lowest in reading comprehension. This issue has become the talk of the town. Everyone was shocked and worried about the issue specially those who were in the Department of Education.

If we still remember, as part of the history in the Philippine Education System, former President Benigno Aquino III approved Republic Act 10533, signing into law the K to 12 Program last May 15, 2013. This was adopted for the purpose of providing mastery of skills for lifelong learners, prepare the learners for career opportunities, and likewise to uplift the quality of education to enable every learner to be globally competitive. Moreover, the program seeks to level Philippine education with the rest of the world with 12 years of basic schooling which was a global standard. Despite the challenges and issues during the implementation, this program was successfully implemented.

With the results of PISA, different groups, individuals, either professionals or common people have shared their opinions and sentiments in the social media noting that perhaps the adopted curriculum was not yet successfully implemented nor effective
in promoting quality education among Filipino learners. Maybe those comments and expressions might help the Department of Education to reflect that there’s something wrong with the Philippine Education System.

Although the results of PISA may sound negative to us Filipinos, especially to those in the Department of Education, we have to accept this challenge as an opportunity to prove ourselves once more. Clearly, our education system now is still neither “globally competitive” nor “at par with international standards”. But instead of blaming the system, and the curriculum itself, we have to work as one, and move as one to help uplift the quality of education in our countries. The quality of education may only be possible if everyone is responsible in doing something remarkable. The result of the PISA gives us a chance to know the real status of our learners. This gives us an opportunity to do something to improve the system.

No questions, the Department of Education took this challenge positively. As recently reported in the news, Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones has already launched Sulong EduKALIDAD which calls for national effort for quality basic education. This initiative and effort will surely uplift the quality of education if everyone will get involve and be part of transforming our learners and help them to be on top in the near future. Sulong EduKALIDAD is the department’s commitment to help the learners achieve their full potentials. The center of this program is the Filipino learners. This includes the Four Pillars of aggressive reforms for quality. The first letter of the four pillars of Sulong EduKALIDAD form the word KITE. A kite will symbolize for our learners dream to fly high and be globally competitive.

K – K to 12 curriculum review and update

It’s about time to revisit and closely review the curriculum. The issues and challenges behind the implementation of the K to 12 program must be addressed and resolved now. In the past few years of implementation, we have seen the real scenarios in every school
while they keep on embracing this curriculum. One thing is for sure, we cannot replace this curriculum but we still have the time to furnish and improve it for the betterment of the Filipino learners.

I – Improving learning environment

Given the fact that education has received the highest budget allocation for the past years to maintain basic education facilities, create teaching and non-teaching positions, and to provide learning resources to the learners, still, there are issues and challenges to resolve. Learners need conducive learning environment to help them learn better. The Department of Education through the help of other external stakeholders must do something to help schools with insufficient facilities, and learning resources. Moreover, the school administrators all over the country must also do something to improve the learning environment of their respective schools. Teachers must be resourceful, organize, and creative to make their classroom conducive and safe for learning.

T – Teachers’ upskilling and reskilling

The quality of education can be realized through the help of quality teachers. Teachers need more doors and windows of opportunities to uplift their skills and capabilities. More relevant trainings are needed to develop our teachers to be more efficient and effective. Furthermore, aside from the formal trainings and seminars, teachers must also have the initiatives to help themselves to be better and be the so called 21st century teachers. It’s about time to take out of the box and leave your comfort zone. Never stop learning and upgrade ourselves for the better.

E – Engagement of stakeholders for support and collaboration

Stakeholders support play important roles in the school. They are the partners of the school leaders in achieving the goals of the school. But most of the time, stakeholders’ engagement in the schools have become a problem. Stakeholders must be empowered to
help them eager and motivated to participate in different schools’ activities. Healthy relationship between the school and stakeholders is relevant, this will encourage everybody to work harmoniously together, which will later have positive impacts in achieving the goals of the school in promoting quality education and producing lifelong learners.

References:

https://www.oecd.org-PISA 2018 Insights and Interpretations
https://www.deped.gov.ph - Statement of the Philippines’ ranking in the 2018 PISA results
https://www.pressreader.com -Stakeholders roles in school