A TEST TO CHALLENGE: SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE VIS-A VIS NAT

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The Enhanced K to12 Basic Education Program aims to give Filipinos the 12-year basic education program that Filipinos should have. In the Philippines, one of the most anticipated events in the academic community in elementary and secondary schools is the administration of the National Achievement Test (NAT).

Their focus has been primarily on the content - what students should learn, context – the circumstances, students should be learning in, and outcomes - the knowledge and skills students should acquire. More importantly, the test’s results are intended to guide the Department of Education in its efforts towards the improvement of the quality of education in public schools and to provide appropriate intervention for the students. It was revealed that the concepts that are being taught in secondary Science are very few as compared to the topics being learned by students abroad. These conditions also placed the country in a very low rank in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

There are several factors that account for the low performance of high school students in Science. These include the lack of support for a scientific culture reflected in the deficiencies regarding the school curriculum, the inadequate teaching learning process, insufficient instructional materials and lack of teacher training. Hence, the students are not given proper training and adequate information to become scientifically literate individuals.

As such, there is a need to call for educational reforms to address the needs of students in Science and eventually improve their performance in the NAT rating by reaching the 75% mark. These calls must focus on the content or what the students should learn, in the context or the circumstances, students should be learning in, and outcomes or the knowledge and skills students should acquire. Important changes have come about as educational reform efforts focused on the needs of students.
References: