ACCESS AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

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When we say “quality education”, we mean academic excellence. Filipinos really value education. There are a lot of proofs for this claim; the number of students attending to college clearly shows the need for education. Academic awareness and information on every particular subject of life primarily from universities with incorporation of the outside world. There are many issues to be discussed in order to locate the real quality of education here in the Philippines.

One of the big matter of why we are having a poor quality of education is the kind and thoroughness of the information and awareness being taught to Filipino students and the scheme of passing the information to them. Some information given to them are really obsolete and sometimes bias in the sense of dealing with different religion (mocking other religion) and the common gender differences. Moreover, some teaching materials being used are obsolete and poorly published like some books and manuals. Sometimes there are incompetent teachers or educators who rely only on first hand-information and do not care whether their students are really learning or not.

It may be true that children are given a bulk of information they needed to cope with and the school is just a place where you are opt to get high grade for a job that has a high salary that reduced the education. Education, for many Filipinos, is just another way to a better life. It doesn't matter what you finish, where you finish, or how you finish, you just have to graduate. Why do you think there are so many schools in the country considered as 'diploma mills'? Because education is a symbol of status. However, in the same way that many of us purchase a small square of piece of paper in the hopes of changing our lives by the millions of pesos, there are also others who don't
care about the quality of schools they are attending for as long as they graduate. A degree from any university is better than not having anything at all.

There is a need to look closely and resolve the following important issues: 1) quality of education 2) affordability of education 3) government budget for education; and 4) education mismatch.

1) Quality – the quality of education in the Philippines greatly declined. The standardized test constructed for elementary and secondary students showed low results and is below the target mean score.

2) Affordability - Most of the students can’t afford education, especially in the economic status of our country. They tend to enroll in public schools which cause overpopulation in the school. Some students just drop-out and some doesn’t even want to go to school because of this problem.

3) Government budget for education - Another cause of the sorry state of Philippine education lies in government priorities. The budget allocation for education is small, compared to the industry's needs. We are so far behind other more developed countries in this respect, simply because we don't have the money to pay our public teachers any better.

4) Education mismatch – there is great mismatch between learning and training thus making for Filipinos underemployed.
References:

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