BRIGADA ESKWELA; ITS IMPLICATION TO SOCIETY

by:
Sherwin G. Serrano
Balsik National High School

Every year, all public schools in the Philippines are mandated to hold an activity that aims to involve the community, stakeholders and others called Brigada Eskwela or the National Schools’ Maintenance Week. This is also known as “Bayanihan Sa Paaralan” which embodies one of the Filipino traditions “Bayanihan”, an idea that pictures barrio men carrying “bahay kubo” (nipa hut) on their shoulders voluntarily.

Brigada Eskwela brings everyone an image of cleaning the windows and doors, repainting the walls, blackboards and fences, and even repairing the chairs and other facilities. This produces a great show to watch in the school where everyone in the community, parents, students, NGOs, NGAs, Government officials, private sectors and other stakeholders are in unity doing a voluntary work for the sake of the school.

The struggle on very rough black boards, broken windows, walls full of graffiti, electric fans that do not work, broken armchairs and the like is making quality education difficult to achieve. However, to alleviate these challenges, everyone, not only the teachers and school administrators needs to play a part. This is where Brigada Eskwela plays a significant role.

As the name of the programs states, “Brigada Eskwela” assembles an army of volunteer painters, cleaners, laborers and others to assist the school during maintenance week. Every year, it has its theme which focuses mainly on schools’ preparedness, cleanliness and safety as it caters the need of the incoming students.
The success of its implementation depends on the collaboration of the school head, teachers, community and its public and private partners. The willingness to do something for the common good for free is an advocacy which Brigada Eskwela campaigns. When the school administrators, teachers and community are working hand in hand, the success of this program is guaranteed.

Everyone in the community is an stakeholder of education. People may see this program as merely a DepEd’s mandate to help the department of its problem on maintaining the school and saving funds. Whether someone is from public or private sector, they should realize that their roles in creating a positive change in the society, especially for the welfare of the youth.

Brigada Eskwela provides everyone a chance to being a part of the solution in the society rather than being the problem or staying stagnant in the system. It gives them an opportunity to choose whether or not they want to become a part of change they all want to see. By simply contributing a little amount to cleaning schools’ grounds or maybe repainting the walls, no matter how small or great the endeavor, it leads everyone to an avenue of realizing what an impact anyone can be in the school and community.

Thus, Brigada Eskwela benefits not only DepEd and the schools, it also contributes to the well-being of the volunteers. This gives them a chance to play a very important role, big or small in the development of the country as a whole.

References:
http://www.tribune.net.ph/nation/deped-leads-brigada-eskwela-kick-off