The Department of Education (DepEd) had implemented the new content of Araling Panlipunan 10 effective in the Academic Year 2017-2018 as part of the New Curriculum Framework of Araling Panlipunan under the K to 12 Basic Education Program in order for the learners to perceive the potential or existing problems and issues in our society and for them to be knowledgeable of some recommendations and possible solutions in addressing those problems.

However, upon the release of the revised curriculum draft on April 21, 2017, there were already deleted topics such as political dynasties, graft and corruption and territorial conflicts, “but the latest revision ignores how Philippine economics and politics are affected today by non-democratic and unjust practices that only a democratically active citizenry can address” (Educators’ Forum for Development, 2017).

The EFD further said that it is within the role of the education to make the youth aware of issues such as those deleted topics rather than make them oblivious to such as could be a result of the curriculum revision. They also stressed that the beneficiaries of political dynasties, graft and corruption and territorial conflicts would be the only people who would benefit from the curriculum change.

Despite that has been said and criticisms from the EFD, the new content still provides deeper understanding regarding the issues in our society not just only in terms of the problems in the government and poverty but also about the environment, calamities, globalization and economy as well. It also gives an opportunity to the learners to be critical thinkers and wise citizens in order for them not be deceived and be manipulated by the government leaders.

Moreover, contemporary issues are topics that will provide interest and will give relevance to every Filipino’s life because citizens were the first involved and are the first
to be affected in such issues. Across these disciplines in the new content of Araling Panlipunan 10, there is a big possibility that the student-teacher interaction would be active since they will be tackling real-life topics which they can relate to.

The new disciplines also mold the learners to be aware and responsible members of their communities in which they can possibly contribute to the desired changes in the society. According to Anne Margaret L. Garcia, contemporary issues will allow the students to think, read and write critically and also require them to critic, argue, synthesize and do some researches and can make personal connections by applying lessons to their life.

In spite of deleted topics on its revision, the new content still has several advantages on the part of the learners and teachers as well and also saves them from ignorance. It is important for the students not only to be honed academically but also to be provided with knowledge that are essential to be socially-aware citizen.

Therefore, the teachers should make a serious cooperation in providing relevant knowledge and information to be inculcated in the minds of the students. Their teaching should be effective in order to meet the desired goals of this new content in Araling Panlipunan 10 and to contribute for the betterment of the society.

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