EDUCATION: A DETERMINANT OR A DETRIMENT?

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Education is fundamentally valuable asset to anyone. It is a weapon to improve and change one’s life. To say education is important is an understatement; for in the shortest sense, it is acquiring knowledge and skills. In broader terms, it means acquiring various significant skills in diverse fields that will be vital in life. These skills can be acquired during course of life and through classroom training. These are the goals that schools embody in pushing to their extent – to provide quality education for the students.

School readiness is a one-way ticket; a viable strategy in closing the learning gap and improve equity to achieve lifelong learning and full developmental potential among students. Despite it, students will still not be properly equipped if they themselves are not ready to obtain learning. In a study conducted by Venezia (2009), about 83% of high school graduates enroll in tertiary education, 21% of these students are adequately prepared for college-level work, and only 52% of students complete their degrees. Despite the efforts of the government to provide students with quality education, it is still alarming that secondary school products are not well-prepared for college life. However, according to Kagan (2007), readiness to learn is a characteristic from birth – all children are born ready to learn. Surely, it is safe to safe that at a certain point in time, children becoming young adults stopped being ready for certain reasons, may it be extrinsic or intrinsic factor.

There are several factors affecting the performance of students in schools; Garcia (2017) pointed out that most of the reasons are home-related: family size, financial burden, work at home and parental attitude towards education. The foremost support-
system of a student is his family; if the parents are compassionate about education, they will persevere, no matter what their family size is, to send and provide for their children in school. Additional factors are the relationship between the student and the teacher, and peer-influence. Teachers can highly affect the student’s perception of education; certain attributes such as teacher’s experience and attitude towards students go a long way in a student’s intrinsic motivation to learn. Also, peer influences have been one of the most proliferating reasons why a student either prioritizes their education or not. It is, by far, the most observable factor of a student’s values and priorities when it comes to life’s choices.

Education is a door of opportunities; students may not realize it at an early point in their lives, but sooner or later they will value the education that they have and pursue on becoming better a student and citizen in the succeeding years. Taking the academic road will not be always smooth; there will always be bumps and turns which may lead to a setback. A fulfilled academic life is not one without hindrances, whether extrinsic or intrinsic. Rather, it is enduring even when it comes to its worst and you can no longer find reason to continue. Education is indeed one of the keys to a better future, but more so, it is oneself that determines whether the knowledge and skills will be put to a good use.

References:

