EDUCATION MODERNIZATION

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Blackboard, chalks, eraser, recitation, quiz, periodical exams etc., components of a traditional classroom setting since time immemorial. Thru this traditional method, we have produced a great number of our professionals in the field of engineering, medicine, science and technology and other fields of discipline. However, while it’s true that some of the greatest minds are products of this age-old setting, isn’t it about time to break the mundane task of classroom tradition? The answer is a big YES and we need to adapt with the breakneck speed of today’s technology in order to stay competitive.

Although a number of middle-class families could afford providing modern implements to augment traditional learning of their children, a huge chunk of the student population who are mired in poverty are left in the divide. Much is needed to be done in funding the needs of students in the lower economic strata. Some civic organizations are providing computers in the far-flung areas of the country to bring modern technology to students like the Robert Wagner Foundation and the World Vision to name a few.

The government for its part, signed in 2013 the Enhanced Basic Education Act or K-12 Program which aims to provide sufficient time for mastery of concept and skills, develop lifelong learners, and prepare graduates for tertiary education, middle level skills, development, employment, and entrepreneurship.

This also aims to conform with the world standard of education, the Philippines being the last country in Asia and one of handful worldwide to have a 10-year basic education
system. The fruition of the efforts by the advocates of achieving educational equity will bring about also opportunity for our graduates to compete in the global job market.

One company pushing for the comprehensive educational modernization is FELTA or First in Educational Trends Always. FELTA provides a wide range of selection of School Technology solutions, from educational devices, software to robotics, online courses and activity kits. According to them, our educational technology is still in the developmental stage and must be made ready in order to adapt to the changes that needs to be implemented.

They are pushing for a hybrid solution so to speak by way of “Blended Education”, a combination of traditional and modern method because they believe that students need not to know how to swipe on a device only but must know how to write by themselves as well. However, one stumbling block that FELTA sees is, that Blended Education is quite expensive and may be afforded only by few so they try to bridge the gap by coordinating their effort with the local government for funding.

Much effort and funding are needed to modernize our educational system, but modernize we must. If we grow up drinking only mango juice, we will never know the taste of apple juice if we will not try.

References:
1. http://robertwagnerfoundation.org/

