EDUCATION NOW AND THEN

by:
Russell C. Galang

National College Entrance Examination or NCEE was a requirement for every graduating Filipino high school students. It is a tool examination that tends to measure critical reading, thinking and the problem solving skills that are necessary for college. A month or two before the high school graduation, every single Filipino students are preparing to take the exam. Sleep early before the big day, waking up ahead of time for breakfast in order not to be late for the said call time of the examination most especially if the venue of the said examination was too far from your residence that will require you to ride a jeepney or a mini-bus. It was a nerve-racking whole day of the exam handling your pencil and browse every pages of the test booklet being bound by a given time in each part of the exam. After the two or three months waiting for the result, there is no means of explanation of what kind of joy nor happiness a certain parent knowing their child had pass the exam and is qualified to enter college to get a degree of their choice or base on the result of the examination. That is how I can described the experience I had as well as my Mother during those days successfully overcoming what I had been striving for in high school years.

In 2018, it was the first time that our randomly selected high school students had participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment or PISA. Unfortunately we got a low performance grade among the members of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development or OECD. Test result was taken from Math, Science and Reading skills. Although it was our first time to join the said assessment, the speculation of the many that our education capabilities or standards was declining. Is it true? Why? Excluding the subject of Math and Science, we cannot deny our skills in speaking in English language for we are at 20th placed last 2019 in the world ranking.
and was also declining from 13th place in 2016. It was almost three years since the K to 12 or the Enhance Basic Education of the Philippines (RA 10533) was implemented and cannot be link for the said failure in the PISA. We cannot also put the blame on the teachers implementing the process of education in the country most likely to those in the public sector.

When I was in elementary and high school both in the public sector where I was enrolled at, every year you will noticed of students that had failed and return back from their previous Grade that they were into. You will not have any reason for being absent in the class or simply getting away from cutting classes because it will hit you back by failing the subject or going back and not accelerating to a higher grade next year. It was different now, why? It was because of the motto, “no students will left behind”. A targeted program of the government for the coming years plus because of the passing of the RA 10533 law or the Enhance Basic Education that prompt the addition of two years in the high school level. It was said that the moment you failed a child, you are responsible for his or her chance to grow because every child was different in many ways most especially for their maturity and capability. Maturity and Capability maybe true in the sense that they are still growing, but the fact that they cannot comprehend on what was taught is a different matter. Then there is the issue of poverty, which we should look for their wellbeing. I don’t think so, poverty should not be a hindrance for having an education, and it should be an inspiration and a challenge for all students. One of the main issue was the parents and young parents. There is a saying that “you must lead by your example”. How can a student be inspired by their studies if their parents don’t give a damn about it, they will just give money or any kind of equalities then off the student go, and when child got home, there is no follow up if how he or she did at school. Then there are those very young parents that got pregnant at early age and even they did not finished their studies. What example could they set to their child if they for themselves don’t have the education they must have. The last issue was the educational system of mass promotion, or the issue of taking away their opportunity in
life. As an educator, Failing is different from Failure. To fail was to have the biggest opportunity to develop, to grow and learn more and be as ready as you can be to face new beginnings. And on the other side, Failure is the our negligence or incapacity to achieved our goal for the reason that we did not have a plan or rather we are incapable of having a systematic approach on what kind of venture we are into. As long as we are afraid of failing, failure is imminent in every student we had, and the phrase that they are our future, it will become nothing and will remain just a dream.

References:

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