The education system in the Philippines has largely been shaped by its colonial history, particularly by the Spanish and American cultures. Today, the system is largely modelled on the US education system. Education in the Philippines fares poorly compared with other countries in the region. While primary education is compulsory until the 6th grade, drop-out rates are high after this level.

Filipino and English are the main languages of instruction at all public and private schools in the Philippines. From grades 1 to 3, students are taught in the dominant language of their particular region. Classes are held in either English or Filipino from then on. The school year for both public and private schools in the Philippines normally runs from June to March or April. A typical school week is Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4pm or 5pm. Students usually have an hour lunch break; as school cafeterias are rare, many students either go home for lunch or bring their own lunch to school.

Most local Filipino children attend public schools, which are funded by the government and free to attend. The quality of education at public schools remains poor. Classes are big, teaching material is lacking and teachers are poorly paid. Those who can afford it send their children to private schools. Private schools are not funded by the government, but follow much the same curriculum as public schools. Many private schools in the Philippines started as missionary or Christian schools. Classes are smaller than public schools and facilities and resources are usually much better.

Education is what every person needs, something that will serve as a treasure for it will lead a successful life. Through education, we will be knowledgeable and skilled
thus making us a productive citizen of our country. In addition to that, we will be able to apply the principles we learned in school when dealing with life’s challenges. This is how I realized how important education is for my life. Since I was an only child and also a bread winner of my family. First, I applied in private school as a teacher; there I’ve seen the importance of education not only for myself but also for my students. First year of my teaching wasn’t that easy, I know I need to adjust to a new and challenging environment. I was feeling nervous thinking how was I going to face the students, a lot of questions already occupied my mind but I just considered the situation as a new chapter of my life. After teaching one year, I realized that my salary was not enough at all to provide all our needs so I decided to switch to public school for some reasons. When I got in, I’m already permanent for life then aside from that, there are many benefits to be received. Another reason is I will be more challenged on how to face the different world of teaching for me to see the similarities and differences of things.

As I went along, I encountered different students and different scenarios. First, student’s academic performance; I see three kinds of students. There are those students who are grade conscious. They were very dedicated to their studies, giving importance to each subject they have. Second, those students who were just contented to pass without exerting an extra effort and weren’t aiming to have a high grades. Third those students who were lazy to study and did not care if they fail their subjects. What the students are like in private is just the same in public. Now, it makes me sad to realize that despite the unending words of wisdom from their parents and teachers there are still students who display hate when it comes to studying. I wanted all them to finish their studies for it is the best way to overcome life’s trials.

Second, their attitude inside the classroom. It’s already common that every class has noisy students. I learned that classroom management is the key to conquer this inevitable problem. To some of the classes I handled, I was able to apply classroom management well every time I teach my lessons without any distractions, for some I’m
still in search for the right strategy to do it well. I have had a section that was very difficult to handle. This section consisted of students who were hard headed, didn’t care about the discussion and they just do what they wanted as if they had their own world. All my sermons were just nothing for they don’t take them seriously but at the end of the day, I still care so I continued to do my job as their teacher. There was one thing I observed about them and that’s how they get along with their teachers well. Yes, I would say they’re not that too intelligent but the way they deal with their teachers are exemplary and that’s what I admire from those students. I remember telling them, it’s better to have a heart without a brain that to have a brain without a heart because the best memories remains in our hearts. The only difference from mentioned above is most of the students in public tend to commit more of the offenses such as habitual tardiness/absenteeism, cutting classes, etc. which are very common scenarios in school.

Lastly are the teaching strategies to employ. There was an event when one of my colleagues questioned me for not using speech laboratory. I explained that the subject does not require the use of the speech laboratory and I was just following what was on the curriculum. That encounter made me realize to think of a lesson where I can integrate the use of it, and I was amazed how students enjoyed it. In some scenarios in public, since most of the students are slow learners, I really have to try different teaching strategies for them to cope up with the lesson. Usually, most of the time the lessons are repeated until learned that results to time consuming. I can say it’s more difficult for only a few has comprehension. Actually, those experiences made me a better teacher and whatever the lessons I learned from my experiences that will be applied in my next teaching in the future. Education starts with educators, if we’re not going to make it meaningful, we’ll be useless in a society where we belong because we are the hope and instrument to make people competitive globally. At the end of the day, what matters is we fulfill the calling all by ourselves that was given to us by our Almighty God. I’m currently pursuing my master’s degree in language education for me to have a career growth. If given a chance to be promoted in a higher position, I’d gladly take that opportunity for me to have a
wider wisdom where all the experiences and learnings of mine can be applied in a context.

References: