INTERNET CONNECTION IN SCHOOLS: A 21ST CENTURY EDUCATIONAL AID

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With the growing advancement of technology nowadays, internet connection in schools is deemed important. In fact, the United Nations declared (2016) internet access as a basic human right; "emphasizing that access to information on the Internet facilitates vast opportunities for affordable and inclusive education globally, thereby internet accessibility as an important tool to ease the promotion of the right of every individual to education, and to put emphasis on the need to address digital literacy as well as the digital divides, as it affects the enjoyment of the right to education." Internet connection is more than an enhancement, it is a necessity; a bridge that connects us throughout the world and limitless possibilities.

The future depends on how well we cultivate the minds of our youth today; teachers are second to none in noble service to our country in nurturing our students. Educators play a principal role in producing citizens of virtue and our future leaders as well. The quality of instruction inside the classroom determines the fulfillment of our aims in education.

The internet provides a vast number of online courses our educators hope to master and new skills to acquire. As a developing country, an internet connection provides the opportunity for our teachers to hasten their skills in a cost-effective manner, especially in those rural areas where their main cities or "bayan" is far from their homes or schools. Instead of using their money to attend paid courses or their
money for transportation in going to government paid seminars, our teachers can use the internet with their co-teachers as well to collectively learn on various topics.

Moreover, the Department of Education has established an online Learning Resources Management and Development System (LRMDS) last 2015 which aims to centralize the teachers' modules, for it to be easily updated, and can be easily accessed anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet. This innovation really is a great help to our teachers, but one point can alter its positive effects: internet connection itself. How can our teachers access such innovations if they are not connected to the World Wide Web?

In the view of reality, not all our government provided books and our teachers are perfect in imparting knowledge to our students, of course, there were lapses. Providing an example, If a literature teacher wishes to impose Shakespearean perspective or introduce plays in which she has little knowledge about, but deems necessary the importance of such topics, how could she fill in the gap? With the help of an internet connection; It offers a wide range of topics that are easy to grasp either in the form of articles or most especially, videos. Envision this scenario happening in most schools in our country, and visualize also if such problem occurs and we have a remedy for it in the form of an internet connection. It really is a great help to our students and teachers as well.

How can internet connection help our students in other ways? With the growing number of short online courses provided via the Internet, this would massively help our students in acquiring knowledge on diverse topics they hope to learn. As a developing country, we are in need to produce more globally competitive workers, and what better way to achieve such is to expose our students as early as their years in school to mould them not just as a better person, but a person who is able to contribute well to the growing needs of our nation.
The national plan through the DO 50, s. 2009 of the Department of Education aims to connect all public high schools to the Worldwide Web within SY 2009-2010, but such plan has not yet been fully implemented.

On a recent broadband-policy brief released by Arangkada Philippines (2016) a major advocacy of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, showed that close to 80 percent of public schools in the Philippines are still without Internet access. Out of 38,683 public primary schools in the country, only 14 percent or 5,503, have Internet access, while 33,180 or 86 percent, have no data connectivity. Such numbers correspond to the great need of our schools to be connected to the World Wide Web.

Given the competency our business world has, it is deemed necessary to be able to adapt to changes and ensure innovation on our traditional method of teaching by introducing dynamic forms, all of which an internet access can provide.

In conclusion, Internet provides a gateway for innovative learning, a limitless number of possibilities and even interactive classrooms for both our educators and students can benefit from if internet access is provided. With internet connection at our schools, our dream of improving our welfare is no longer a fruit of our fantasy, but with the combined effort, it will be a sought-after reality.

References:

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