K-12: ITS IMPACT TO CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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An act enhancing the Philippine Basic Education system by strengthening its curriculum and increasing the quantity of years for basic education, appropriating funds therefore and for other purposes, commonly known as Enhanced Basic Education Act – Republic Act 10533 implemented last July 23, 2012.

Prior to the implementation of the K to 12 curriculum guide, the Philippines was one among only three countries within the world and therefore the just one in Asia that also had only 10 years in basic education. This has always been seen as an obstacle for our students who are competing in an increasingly global job market. The longer educational cycle of the K to 12 curriculums is seen as critical in giving Filipino students a higher quality of education.

At an early age, children are already exposed to different kinds of learning. With the K-12 being carried out, children ages 5 to 6 already enters formal learning – although school entry also varies with cut off birth dates for enrolment typically set by the state, children in traditional begin kindergarten at about age 5. Then, children will enter elementary education, from grades 1 – 6. Followed by Junior High School, Grades 7 – 10. And the supplement to our education which is Senior High School, Grades 11 – 12. But, is there really a need to implement K – 12 in a country like ours? 10 years of basic education is competitively weak. Global educational standards demand 12 years. Filipino high school graduates who seek to pursue tertiary education internationally are turned away, or asked to require the overall Educational Development (GED) Program to check the student’s proficiency in several select subjects.
Let’s remember that the first purpose of education is to realize knowledge, and is merely secondarily a ticket to finding employment. Its essence lies not in its pragmatic value of getting opportunities for, say, career advancement, but in gaining a far better understanding of the planet. The ultimate goal is to realize wisdom, during which reason prevails over irrationality. When student, who will soon be adults, start to think rationally, behave civilly, and judge morally, then education has achieved its purpose.

Keeping children fed, comfortable and safe isn’t enough. Quality early learning opportunities – where children find out how to find out – are increasingly recognized as an important part of the education continuum that extends through adulthood. Hence, let us all join hands in helping our government uplift the quality of education that we have now, they have already started it with the implementation of K-12, let us take our parts as teachers in providing better education resulting to a better future, not only to the younger generation, but to us as well.

References:

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