MASS PROMOTION IN PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION: A TEACHER’S STANDPOINT

by:

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The Department of Education in the Philippines has issued an order stating that all students should be promoted to the next level (DEPED Order No.73, S.2012). Moreover, in the event that the student is still a beginner by the end of the school year, then he should be enrolled to summer class until he passes the subject/s that he fail/s. In other words, this situation is the practice of mass promotion nationwide.

Upon the implementation of the law, numerous concerns, complaints, and questions rain towards DEPED. On top of it all is the question, “Why?”

We, teachers, are the most affected and triggered by this rule. This requisition has resulted us drawbacks that we so wholeheartedly find hard to get accustomed to. We are not naive to see that not all of the students perform well to get promoted to the next level. Such students are either truants, indolent, neglectful, or simply unqualified. These students who might fail their subjects, it is clearly specified in the order that they are entitled to take summer class and if they fail again, another summer class, until they pass. However, these students, and all of the students countrywide are informed about mass promotion per se. Thus, they think that even if they don’t perform well or attend to their classes, their teachers will pass them because failing students are not allowed. This is a misconception in mass promotion. Teachers can still fail a student, given that the student really is not deserving to pass the subject. But if the student fails, who is more at fault?

Sadly, mass promotion only benefits those who fail to meet the standards and those who take advantage of it. The question now is, “Are they deserving?”

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As a teacher myself, I strongly believe that this practice deteriorates the quality of education in our country. The quantity of graduates is not a good foundation of quality education. We can’t support our success with numbers. It’s about time to promote those who meet the standards set by the curriculum.

Our education should be of great quality and not of quantity. We may have a successful rate of senior high school graduates, but the question is “Are we really successful?”

References:

https://www.philippinesbasiceducation.us/2014/06/to-retain-or-promote-asking-right.html