NOT JUST TECH-VOC

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It’s undeniable that Filipinos value their education very much. Even the poorest families aim to make their children more educated as it provides hope and medium to cut the line of poverty in the family. It’s the society where people look at education as status symbol. Getting a degree in college improves individual self-confidence and strength to face the future. However, not all can afford to get a higher degree nor have the capabilities to enter into more advance academic endeavor. In sideways, students turned to take technical-vocational courses.

It has been an observation among Filipino children when they asked what they want to be when they grow up. Some of their answers would be to become a doctor, a lawyer or a professional. Very rare to hear children saying they want to become a plumber, a construction worker, or a farmer. Large percentage of Filipino families want their children to become college graduate, and in the future hold a pen and paper, supervised others, and seat on an air-conditioned office.

Low expectations for tech-voc graduates? Not nowadays! The Technical Education and Development Authority or TESDA said on its recent statistics that 72 out of 100 graduates of technical vocational studies were able to land a job after 6 months to a year of study, giving brighter and promising opportunities for Filipinos to work locally and abroad. According to them, the increase in employability of tech-voc graduates both locally and abroad have been contributed by coordinating efforts with the labor market and workforce, considering that Filipinos are very responsible, skilled, and competitive. An admin officer with college degrees receives lower salaries while qualified graduates of technical-vocational studies awaits high paying jobs. Globalization pave ways for
industrialization, communication, energy utilization, and tourism. Triple the numbers of hotels, restaurants, resorts, entertainment hubs and cruise ships give ways for tech-voc graduates to show up their skills in exchanged of competitive salary and opportunities to migrate and acquire other benefits such as permanent residency for countries with skills shortages.

Not only TESDA, but also the introduction of new K-to-12 curriculum for senior high schools level up more students to gain technical and vocational skills. Reality check, a graduate of engineering who work in entry level to a middle east country may gain an average of 50 to 60 thousand pesos per month. Locally, a graduate of accountancy who works in a bank get an average of 20 thousand basic salary, similarly with other graduates of academic track and baccalaureate degrees. Comparatively, a waiter in a cruise ship receives an average of 80 to 100 thousand per month, and a welder in Australia receives almost two hundred thousand in a month. In high-technology companies, technicians are more in-demand than engineers. Is it enough to say that tech-voc graduates are indeed more in favored to receive competitive salary and benefits abroad? The way we believe and perceive tech-voc studies should be changed. Our small contribution to what be believe should be a society-wide creation of awareness about the importance of tech-voc in today’s and future modern world.

References:


Azzer Parocha. 72 Out of 100 Tech-Voc Grads Get Jobs Within 6 Months: TESDA, Philippine News Agency, December 5, 2018