ON ITS FIFTH YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION, K TO 12 BEC IS GRADUALLY PROGRESSING

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With the opening of Grade 11 and finally vacating the former program, which is the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) we can say that K to 12 BEC is on its way to stardom. But what does K to 12 BEC mean? K stands for Kindergarten, which means that all children will have to attend Kindergarten at the age of 5 before entering into formal schooling and that is Grade 1. The number twelve (12) is divided into three parts. The first six (6) years is intended for elementary days, while the next four (4) years is allotted for Junior High School, and the last two (2) years is reserved for Senior High School.

Change is not easy as the new program has received criticisms on students, parents, and politicians. Protests involving militant groups have prompted on the television. Parents were complaining about the additional two years in the high school. Students, who are affected by the transition, are mad, because they have to endure more pains and sacrifices before entering in college. Negative reactions on social media have spread.

Many have questioned its implementation, but DepEd did not mind them. Seminars for school heads are also held in order to help in the proper administration and supervision in their respective schools. Seminars for teachers are also conducted all over the country. Teaching guide, curriculum guide, and learner's materials were produced and copies were given to teachers and students used as references. The primary tracks of the new program have purposefully explained to the parents. Teachers are able to expound each track and the corresponding strands.

There are four (4) tracks in which students have to choose, namely Academic Track, Tech-Voc, Arts and Design, and Sports Track. Each track has strand, but some
strands will depend on the offer of the schools. Under Academic Track are Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS), Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM), and General Academic Strand (GAS) for undecided students. Under Tech-Voc Track is Industrial Arts (IA) like EIM, CES, an SMAW, Home Economics (HE) like Cookery, Bread and Pastry, Caregiving, and Nail Art, Agri-Fishery Arts like Food Preservation, Crop Production, and Fish Processing, and Information and communication Technology (ICT) like Computer Hardware Servicing, Computer Programming, and Desktop Publishing. However, the schools’ offer will depend on the availability of the resources and the needs in the community where school is located. As results, some schools do not offer Arts and Design and Sports Track. There are also strands which are not offered.

Teachers’ ability to encourage learners plays a big role. Students end up on the right track and fit to the strand they have chosen. They enjoy what they are doing. Grade 11 teachers are have embraced their role as one of the stewards in the life of the learners. Parents now slowly understand what K to 12 means and eventually supporting their offspring to finish the latter’s study. There are parents who are also explaining to their kids, who are in Junior High School (JHS) the benefits of the new curriculum. Netizens, referring to the people who are constantly using social media, are now liking and sharing the advantages of the K to 12 programs.

These acts show gradual acceptance on the implementation of K to 12 Program and we should be happy because this means that our countrymen are slowly realizing its positive effects on the education and in the lives of the future generation.
Reference:
