QUALITY EDUCATION: IS IT REALLY DETERIORATING?

by:
Joalden M. Apostol
Teacher I, Orani National High School Parang - Parang

Quality education is described as the onset of meeting the set objectives in literacy and numeracy however, according to SDG this definition is inadequate and obsolete. They retaliate that quality education is not as simple as executing the content but a scheme intended to help the students in attaining and reaching their potent capabilities and become productive citizens as they enter the society. Moreover, quality education can be achieved if resources are being provided and employing policy that guarantee the safety of the students and exercising healthy lifestyle. They must learn in physically and emotionally safe environment. The access to personalized learning is supported by a qualified teachers who challenge the students to be academically prepared for college and employment. Quality education is founded with three pillars these are (1) qualified teachers, (2) access to learning material and professional growth and (3) safe and conducive learning setting.

The Philippine education becomes a center of debate between private and public sector. Filipino teachers perceived educational methods and school process as one. Students are anticipated to grow and improve in school. However, the excellent quality of education is deteriorating because of the poor support of the government to education. Deterioration of the quality of education is mostly felt in rural public schools which is usually unfunded by the government.

In addition to that, teachers are teaching 55 students in a below average classroom using textbooks that are not well-evaluated. Makeshift laboratories are lack of science apparatuses. Lack of learning materials and tools greatly affect the learning process of the
students. The number of students in one classroom is already a stressful to teachers, managing many students is strenuous. Aside from that, because of the number of the students teachers have a difficulty to determine the individual learning style of the students. Another challenge that teachers are facing is the students who belong to slow readers and non-readers. There are non-readers who were promoted to junior high school and teaching them to read is not included in the curriculum guide in junior high school.

Relatively, there are so many challenges that the teachers have to face yet they are receiving insufficient salary. There are some instances that teachers have to use his/her own resources or money to purchase the materials that his/her students need in their activity. Then there is the “no collection policy” of DepEd, making hard for the teachers to create conducive classroom for the students. Chairs and tables that needed some repairs will be charged to the teacher’s pocket.

Curriculum planners are always seeking methods to make or choose curriculum that is more suitable to the students however it is not the curriculum that makes the quality of education to deteriorate but because of government’s lack of support to education. Department of Education must receive higher allocation of budget to meet the demand for quality education.

References: