SCHOOL-BASED FEEDING PROGRAM CONTINUES DESPITE PANDEMIC CRISIS

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It is a reality that the educational system worldwide is experiencing its biggest challenges due to world health problems. DepEd Order No. 39, s. 2017 or school-based feeding program for school years 2017-2022 continuously given to poor learners

According to Mother Teresa, if we can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one. We must believed that this quotation similarly with this program of Department of Education. At least one member of the poor family that is enrolled in public school will have a chance to become a healthy member of the society. SBFP aims to improve the nutritional status of the beneficiaries by at least 70% at the end of 120 feeding days and it aims to increase classroom attendance by 85% to 100% and improve the children’s health and nutrition values and behavior.

According to Charles Kettering – Inventor, a problem well-stated is a problem half solved.” We must strongly agree that DepEd must continue to have a program like SCHOOL-BASED FEEDING PROGRAM despite of the pandemic because obviously the major problem nowadays is the malnutrition of students that leads to many school-learners related problems. We think that DepEd actually define and understand the problem. DepEd apply some solutions to the problem and keep tracking when their solution is working.

The Department of Education recognizes the importance of good nutrition for the improvement of academic performance of learners. It is considered to be a sound investment in education as it is associated with increased enrollment, improved attendance, better performance, decreased repetition and decreased drop-out. A student
who is not healthy, who is hungry, is not a student who will profit optimally from the education process. Moreover, health and education are interdependent. Students are better learners when they are healthy and well and better educated people tend to be healthy.

School feeding programs can keep learner through enhancing enrollment and reducing absenteeism and once the children are in school, the program can contribute to their learning, through avoiding hunger and enhancing cognitive abilities.

School feeding program illustrates the role of education and schools have in the long term development of the country. This is obvious through the education and health improvements of children, which lead to a greater earning potential in life, this breaking the cross generated cycle of poverty. The feeding program of the Department of Education is important to the learning support system and ability to learn of the students because it alleviates the health and developmental consequences of childhood malnutrition, higher school attendance and lower drop outs. It improves concentration and energy level in students, burden off of parents and guardian’s shoulders and increased sales for local farmers and vendors when school feeding program provide a structured market for local agricultural production, there is an opportunity to boost local economies by reinvesting resources into the communities of the children this program are serving.

In this way school feeding program provide an opportunity for national government to invest in the long term development of both children and the economic development of the community

References:

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