The result of the study conducted through Program International Student Assessment (PISA) in Science education in the Philippines is indeed alarming and wearisome. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development studied the performance of the students in reading, science and mathematics among 79 countries and Filipino students ranked the lowest in reading comprehension as they got the lowest mean score. They ranked second to the last in Science and Math getting almost the same point average.

From the reports given by OECD, Science education in the Philippines is really in deep trouble. Educational experts are stressing that the reason behind the deteriorating quality education in Science is the limited classrooms and laboratories among high schools. In regions III, IV-A, X and X, there is one school out of 10 public elementary schools that has a science laboratory as reported by DepEd. In the National Capital region, this ratio is 3 laboratories for every 10 elementary schools. The public elementary schools in the other regions don’t have any science laboratory to facilitate science learning. Public high schools’ laboratories serve as a regular classroom as well. That is the reason why other classes cannot conduct an activity in laboratories especially if the schedules are overlapping.

The scarcity on science facilities reflected in poor performance of students in various tests especially in Math and Science. The result of National Achievement Test for elementary specifically grade 6 students is only 69.21% which gained 24% improvement from the 2005-2006 mean score though still below passing rate of 75%. Moreover, in high
school level, the passing rate is only 46.38% which slightly below compared to SY 2008-2009 passing rate of 47.40

Moreover, the worse has heightened by the report conducted by UNESCO Science Report of 2010 on the Philippines, there were only 81 researchers in research and development per million people in 2009. Researches about development of industries are significant in building more opportunities for the graduates. If this situation worsen, science and engineering graduates won’t be able to participate in industrialization of the country because they won’t find any suitable engineering work for them.

Department of Education must appeal to the government for increase budget in construction and for the equipment and apparatuses of the laboratories in both elementary and high school public schools. Conduct more ICT integrated seminars and trainings that will equip the teachers in teaching Science.

References:
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