SCIENCE EDUCATION: SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES

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“Scientist within.” The great desire of seeking knowledge and ideas begins from innocent years of being a child. Everyone is born to have a unique scientific mind anchored with limitless imagination that needs to be nurtured, enriched and explored. Philippines is a homeland of excellent and skilled children whose potentials in the field of science and technology are very high. However, are the foundations of science education for Filipino children enough to continue immersing themselves in these endeavors?

In this contemporary era, science and technology play a pivotal role in improving the lives of many people and providing sufficient support in translating researches to development and innovation. The continuity of this pursuit in the country will pave way to a more strengthened and stable society in the virtue of academic and intellectual disciplines. As a Filipino child grows up in increasingly competitive and technological world, they are necessitated to be scientifically literate in order to adapt and succeed. According to University of Texas Arlington (2018), through science education, the students learn to make concrete decisions and to think critically over some problems which can be possibly applied in real life situations leading them to be more honed not just in the four corners of the school but also beyond the community. Nevertheless, the current status of science education in the country is not impressive as it is due to the poor performance and low grades exhibited by the students in national examinations. Ambag (2018) of Flip Science Philippines enumerated the three major causes of this alarming issue and these are the following:
Shortage of Science and Mathematics teachers- the demand for competent teachers who engage and train students in pursuing their interest of chosen science endeavor is highly of great importance;

Shortage of classrooms and laboratories- building of these facilities help in facilitating learning and preventing the students to receive a limited conducive lecture especially that Science revolves in application of principles and concepts with accuracy of performing experiments; and

Quality of learning materials- the circulation of textbooks that are obsolete and contain errors affect the understanding of students in each subject matter.

The quest for the solution of increasing the quality of science education in the country has been already started through the inclusion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) strand in the implementation of K-12 curriculum. Krueger (2018) stated that STEM fields offer students more than just a closer insight on how the world works and opens a ton of room for the advancement to the constantly changing environment of scientific world. Thousands of opportunities are waiting ahead also on the journey of young Filipinos of today and molding them to be a ‘competent professionals’ in the making.

The beauty of science education explains that every child possesses an extraordinary competence wherein scientific skills can be showcased. Everyone is privileged to make a change for the brighter and better future of educational status of science endeavors in the country. The journey in achieving scientific successes is undoubtedly possible if the everybody will partake, support, help each other being knowledgeable in various aspects and believing that the young forces of this society always have a spirit of being a scientist.
References:

