SKILLS MISMATCH AND THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

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Education plays a vital role in the holistic development of a child. It is a right that cannot be deprived to an individual but rather be given automatically and instantly. A person with a sound education partnered with good characters will definitely achieve its purpose in life and can lead their own life without being independent on others. As the old saying goes- “Education is the greatest leveler”, individual can only lift himself from suffering a destitute situation through proper education. It is in fact the strongest driving force which shapes and transform society. Nelson Mandela has a point when he said education is the most powerful weapon which people can use to change the world.

However, one can only say that he/she has the best education when what he/she learned can be applied to everyday life and if the skills gained match what the society needs. There should be correlation on the education of an individual and society or industry where he/she lived in to materialize the skills/knowledge gained. If correlation will not exist, then there will probably be a mismatch.

But what exactly do we mean by mismatch or by that of educational mismatch? In commonsense, educational mismatch refers to the lack of coherence between the required and offered educational level for a given job. This happens when the higher learning institutions provide vocational and technical skills that are not congruent to what the industry or society really need. Most of the time newly graduates tend to resort to an underemployment or shift from other career because they cannot provide what a particular business entity/office require.
Educational mismatch is a worldwide issue in terms of education, it indeed exist in any part of the world including the Philippines. The reasonable concern of this issue is the existence of overeducated workers when the knowhow/skills they bring to their works/jobs exceed the skills required for that job, and undereducated labors when these skills are mediocre compared to those required for the job. Potentially, both these situations can have negative consequences for the labour market and in the country as a whole.

Recently, the government had the greatest move on resolving skills mismatch of the Filipino students and the work force through the passage and implementation of the enhanced basic education curriculum or the so-called Kto12 Program. In Kto12, students where given the chance to learn in advance the skills needed by the industry. One of the provisions of this program is the creation of career track system in the senior high school which include: academic, technical-vocational-livelihood, sports, and art and design. This, together with an enhanced understanding of the requirements of the public and industry, is supposed to aid them choose what career path they would choose to take after graduation.

Overall, the track curriculum is supposed to enhance the value and relevance of the high school diploma, alongside the learning that will come from the core curriculum, which is really the basic preparatory education for entering tertiary level education (Gamboa, 2017).

With the prospering economy of the country, more jobs that are new will be created. The administration, therefore, should pay close attention to guaranteeing that public and private schools, including the senior high schools, will produce students who will be able to immediately find job when they graduate.

Through the efforts of the government to truly address mismatch within the country, I think education in the Philippines will become more coherent with the workforce.
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