SPECIAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM: FULFILLING THE RIGHTS TO EQUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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One of the aims of educational system in the Philippines is to give equal learning opportunities for all Filipino students across the country. Revising the curriculum, providing trainings and seminars for teachers and choosing the right strategies in teaching are just some of the efforts exerted by the people involved in upgrading the performance of their schools. These were some of the steps being done to provide quality education that is made accessible for all learners, even those children who have special needs, and these special learners were provided of Special Education Curriculum to fulfill their rights to receive equal learning opportunities.

It was stated in DECS Order No. 26, s.1997 entitled “Institutionalization of SPED Programs in All Schools” that there should be at least one SPED Center organized in every school division which aims to provide access to basic education among children with special needs, namely: talented/gifted, the mentally retarded, the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, the orthopedically handicapped, the learning disabled, the speech defectives, the children with behavioral problems, the autistic children and those with health problems through the formal system and other alternative delivery services in education.

This curriculum helps the students with special needs to have an access of formal education that the normal students receive so that discrimination and unfair treatment among them will be avoided. It is important to have an education intended for these learners so that they will be given more attention in order for them to learn better. Since
they belong in a classroom wherein there are only very few students, there will be no distractions and they will be more focused on what the teacher is teaching.

Further, DepEd Undersecretary for Finance Annalyn Sevilla said that there are external partners that they will work with so that they can continue the program even though the proposed budget for it is not considered in 2019 national budget. Through these partners, SPED still remains as one of the topmost priority programs of DepEd. She also added that there will be more facilities, more upgrading of teachers and more activities appropriate for the new set of learners.

Through this kind of special curriculum, more children with special needs will still be able to reach their full potentials and use what they have learned in their future endeavors in life. This also helps them to prove that even though they have disabilities and impairments, it would still be possible for them to make a significant contribution in our country as long as they are eager to learn. There is no reason for them to feel unworthy because they can be competent and be productive individuals just like what normal children can be.

Therefore, SPED should never be neglected and be the least priority of DepEd because we never know what significant changes these children with special needs can do to our society. After all, it is their right to receive equal learning opportunities to discover and reach their full potentials and to give them hope that they can be better than what they expected. What they need is just the right attention and prioritization so that we could give them what they need and what they deserve for them to be holistically developed despite having disabilities.
References:
