STUDENT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT GEARING TOWARDS ECONOMIC GROWTH

by:
Manuel D. Yutiga
Head Teacher III, Bataan School of Fisheries

Skills development in every student is one of the main goals of the Department of Education. This is thrust through the TVL tracks offered in the high school level. The main objective is to produce responsible and productive citizens able to contribute to the development of the nation. The very reason is also evident in equipping our students the necessary skills which they will use once that they leave the school to pursue their own paths either it be a higher level of education, employment or entrepreneurship. That is why skills development is important for every student.

One major factor that influences this development is the need of the community where the student resides at. Provided that the school offers technical skills training to students but are not suited to the immediate need of the community, then the offered training is gone to waste. Why so?

The main purpose is to equip the students with the skills they can use should they decide to stop schooling and pursue a source of living. If ever that the skills provided by the school are not needed by the community, the training becomes futile. Chances are, the students will resort to becoming a ward of the state contributing to the societal problem or getting another training to suffice the need to be employed and become productive.

What should be done to augment this situation? This can be initiated by the school itself. The school must be sensitive to the needs of the community, its strengths, and weaknesses. The school must be able to supply what the community requires. If the
community is located near the sea then the school may defray from offering factory based skills or land-based agriculture because definitely, the students would not need them. Same goes for a school located in urbanized areas where farming is very little of interest to the people. The school must be able to devise a means how to trace the needs of the community. From the data gathered, the school then plans and proposes a course offering that will supply the needed manpower the society will use to achieve economic growth. Mismatching of skills from the demands of the community is a sure way of placing the student in the wrong path. This is detrimental because the fundamental objective of the school is to prepare the student to become a productive citizen able to contribute to the development of the economy.

The school plays a vital role in ensuring the future of the nation to be stable and thriving. The development of the student is one key component in the development of the country. One student achieving the mastery his/her full potential would mean a great addition to the roster of individuals supporting the nation. Imagine if schools are able to produce multiple numbers of potential contributors of economic uplifting, then the country will be at its prime state in no time.

If the training offered by the school suits the needs of the community, therefore DepEd’s Vision that states “… contribute meaningfully to building the nation…” is very close to a realization.
References:
