THE CHALLENGES FACED IN UNDERSTANDING SPECIALIZED SUBJECT

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In May 2013, the former President Benigno Aquino III signed the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 into law, more commonly known as the K-12 Program. The K-12 Program under the Department of Education covers kindergarten and twelve years of basic education – 6 years of primary schooling, four years of junior high school and 2 years of senior high school. By adding two more years to the current educational system, K-12 aims to provide mastery of skills for lifelong learners and prepare them for career opportunities. The Senior High School program is further broken down into 4 career tracks: Academic, Technical-Vocational-Livelihood, Arts and Design and Sports. The Academic track includes 4 learning strands: Business, Accountancy and Management (ABM), Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS), Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and the General Academic Strand (GAS). The Technical-Vocational-Livelihood program includes four specialized subjects: Agri-Fishery Arts, Home Economics (HE), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Industrial Arts. With the K-12 scheme adding additional year in high school known as senior year level, students will be expected to graduate at an older age than past graduates. This is a plus consistent with DepEd, as graduates are going to be considered as young adults. The brighter side of this curriculum, they will be properly equipped to deal with higher level of learning as they enter college level of education.

Prior entering Senior High School, Grade 10 students are encouraged to identify the field where they excel, or they want to excel. This will serve as the basis for them to choose which track is suited for them. They must make sure that their chosen career track is related to their skills and preference because every track or strand has its own
specialization. The ABM strand is meant to coach students within the basic concepts of business management, financial management, and company operations. Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) focuses on the study of human behavior, arts, culture, literature, politics, and society. The STEM strand is meant to supply students with the elemental concepts associated with engineering, science, and math. If the students have not made up their mind yet as to which degree they want to take in college, the General Academic Strand or GAS can help them realize their passion. It provides a flexible curriculum that allows students to learn and experience the electives of all the other Academic Strands. The Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) track will award students with TESDA National Certificate after they finished any of the strands under it. This strand will serve as gateway for employment because they will be ready for employment if they pursue working after senior high school.

It is important to recollect that no strand is above the opposite and one shouldn't look down on a particular strand because it seems easy. Students from different strand face different challenges and it will be on student’s effort to face these challenges. The STEM strand which is mainly focus on science and math which means that students will be able to improve their computing skills, utilizing terms and formulas and analyzing and solving problem skills. Under this strand is the heavy load of specialized subject such as Physics, Calculus and Natural Science.

Students also are expected to conduct research and experiments to check if they will apply the theories they learned in school discussions. One must be an analytical and important thinker if they need to succeed under the STEM strand. Students under the HUMSS strand are expected to possess communication and interpersonal skills. One of the challenges faced by students under this strand is that the reading and writing requirements they need to end. Teachers will give plenty of reading materials, writing and research topics, and other assignments which will include an ingenious output like poems, paintings, and speeches. These activities require analytical, creative, and
communication skills. The ABM strand prepares the students for the corporate world. Their subject area includes Applied Economics, Organization and Management and Business Math. Students under this strand are expected to possess numerical, leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills. These skills will help them become entrepreneurs or individuals who run or manage a corporation. They will also get the skills to interpret financial statements and solve for profitability. One of the various challenges in ABM is that the decision-making that students need to face. In order to become a successful entrepreneur one must skills to form intelligent decisions. GAS is ideal for college kids who are still unsure about what they’re going to absorb college. Because GAS students are required to select electives from other academic strands, they’re expected to be skilled in several subjects. Usually these students must be a “jack of all trades” sort of individual or just those that can do virtually everything. This means that they ought to possess the strengths of the STEM, HUMSS, and ABM students in their respective areas of experience. The TVL track directly align its subjects to TESDA’s rules, ensuring that every students are workplace-ready. According to study, the main factor why the students from this strand fail to understand their subjects is the lack of available resources and facilities.

References:

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