THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK IMMERSION TO GRADE 12 STUDENTS

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Do grade 12 senior high school students really need to undergo work immersion?

Currently our 2nd batch of students is undergoing work immersion with our different partner industries. STEM, ABM, EIM, ICT, FBS and SMAW strands are deployed using a batching system composed of 3 batches with at least 80 students per batch deployed in 14 work immersion partner institution. The immersion schedule starts at 8:00 am and normally ends not later than 12:00 noon to allow them to attend class in the afternoon for their remaining subjects. The whole immersion schedule lasts for 26 days or an equivalent of at least 72 hours. After which they are required to submit a portfolio for their work immersion experience.

Meanwhile, our GA strand students were not allowed to participate in off campus work immersion but rather given capstone research project. On top of the Inquires, Investigation, Immersion and Practical research subjects. That’s a lot of research.

During the conduct of the immersion, some concerns were encountered like time conflicts between classes, distance of partner institution from their residence, and financial inadequacies. These concerns were addressed by the following:

Pre-immersion orientations were done prior to the deployment of the students.

Students are monitored on a regular basis.

Work immersion is done in the morning only to give way to their other subjects in the afternoon.
Students were assigned to the nearest immersion partner institution with reference to their place of residency.

Some immersion venues provided allowances to the students, for example Jollibee and Chowking.

However, these concerns were minimal as compared to the advantages and benefits they will acquire if they undergo immersion namely;

Real life work scenarios, familiarity with a real work place, real bosses, workmates

Apply and enhance their specialization in a real life work environments

Possible employment in some partner institutions

Learn other skills aside from their specializations. Example, STEM students learning AutoCAD programs.

Learn and practice the importance of work ethics

CONCLUSION

Work immersion aims to develop the knowledge and skills learned in the four corners of the classroom and to make the students become more aware of the real life work place environment. Student trainees are very much satisfied with the program especially on the factors pertaining to personality and appearance, work habit, work attitude and competence. Still as the saying goes “experience is the best teacher” and nothing compares to the knowledge that it can give these students.

However, despite its effectiveness, there are still some problems and flaws discovered in the delivery of the program which eventually will become the basis to further strengthen and improve the program for the benefit of the future immersion students.
Furthermore, work immersion is part and parcel of the K to 12 Basic Education Program to equip SHS graduates with values, knowledge, and skills that communities, businesses, and industries need through its four exits: higher education, entrepreneurship, employment, or middle-level skills development.

References:

http://mindanaotimes.net/k-12-work-immersion-program-of-senior-high-school-students/