Choosing a path from thousands of careers available is such a tough decision to make. Since different industries offer a lot of jobs, it is quite difficult to decide which path to take. This dilemma usually happens among the students because at a young age, they have to determine what are their goals, in which academic track they would settle and what career they want to pursue in the future. Many students struggle with the confusion on which path to take.

Regarding this matter, the Department of Education administers National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) in able to assess the students' aptitudes and capabilities and to determine what discipline they excel in. It can also determine the occupational interests of the students who will take the exam for them to have an idea and choices for their preferences in particular vocations and career categories.

According to Lissabeth Ross, addressing the problem of unemployment because the workers get mismatch with the wrong careers is one of the reasons why NCAE was developed. This means that NCAE could give students some options and considerations of what career they are going to choose.

Getting mismatched with the wrong career can jeopardize the future of the students because choosing a career you’re not passionate about gravitates to a higher future unemployment. There is also an impact to the country because it may result into shortage in skilled workers, the unemployment rate might increase and may worsen the brain drain phenomena in the country. Also, failing to find appropriate jobs that are inclined in the course they finished can result into poor performance in work.
On the other hand, Kate Southam (2011) said that "research shows that school leavers tend to shift careers three to five times, thus it’s alright not to worry about making a wrong choice that you have to live with forever. Young people today are not contented with their first jobs which results to job hopping. She also advised to talk to someone who actually does the kind of work that you are contemplating in able to make a better assessment if the role is right for you.

In addition, Laura Benson (2013) wrote some tips for students deciding on a career path. One of these is to attend college opening fairs wherein the students can explore various career options. They would also have several ideas on what nature of work they are going to encounter in a particular career. Another is talking to peers and teachers because they can actually point out what your capabilities are which is a great way you understand yourself better.

However, despite the advantages brought by NCAE in choosing career, students must not make major decisions based on the results of NCAE alone. NCAE only provides a part of the macroview in determining what best fit to the students. In the end, the ones who will decide are the students themselves with the consideration of their goals in interests. Aptitude tests only offer ideas and considerations and not the ones which decide what career a young person must take.

References:

