THE SETBACKS OF SHIFTING CLASSES CAUSED BY OVERCROWDED ROOMS

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Classrooms are students' second home thus these must provide comfort and security as to aid the effectiveness of instruction. As asserted in the principles of teaching, an ideal classroom must be conducive for learning. It should be well ventilated and should contain all necessary instructional materials such as boards, desk and teaching aids. However, this prototypical classroom does not exist at some instances. Just like here in our country, classrooms are congested with loads of students who cannot properly learn because of masses of interferences.

According to Jones (2017) “over 21 million students start a new school year in the Philippines, and almost 18 percent of the entire student population will be forced to attend extremely overcrowded public schools.” This huge number of students isn't tantamount to the number of public schools with sufficient classrooms and it interferes in the efficacy of the teaching learning process. Meanwhile, because of poverty, lots of poor families bring their children to public schools since they cannot afford the financial demands in private schools causing the increase number of student population like a loose canon in most public schools. Because of these predicaments, the government implemented the shifting of classes. Way back year 2004, The Department of Education (DepEd) implemented DO No. 62, s. 2004 in order to reduce the number of students squeezing in single room. It suggested that the usual class schedule be divided into two shifts as to avoid sharing of classroom instead taking turns in utilizing such as not to sacrifice the quality of teaching.
Unfortunately the problem with the idea of shifting of classes is that students are pressured by the time frame given to learn and are deprived of means to maximize the enhancement their skills and talents only because time restricts. The teachers will also be jampacked with numbers of schedules to teach handful of sections. Most of them have to arrive at the school very early in the morning and others have to go home quite late in the evening. Students may also be in danger if they walk on dark roads where most crimes begin to lurk.

However, the setbacks created by shifting of classes augmented DepEd to seek for a permanent solution and that is through owning lands to build new schools. It was later assisted by the program Coalition for Change (CfC) launched by the The Australian Embassy In Manila and the Asia Foundation. Such brought hope to end this dilemma in education. However, they needed to compel difficulties and one of these is inadequacy of funds to build new infrastructures. So they planned a schematic protocol to remove the struggles in the system of education particularly in Manila where largest population of students is found. After the long negotiations in partnership with social groups and shareholders, the actions had come into conclusion. In 2015, the national budget raising the fund for the Department of Education to acquire land for new schools, from a modest $1.3 million in 2014 to $8.2 million in 2015.

The loophole about the government plans is that they issue student programs such as K-12 and Alternative Learning Schools (ALS) without further assessment of the school facilities which is the main concern of both teachers and students because it may damage the impression of the child to learn or worst may even cause health deficiency. No matter how advantageous programs like K to 12 may be, it will all be worthless without ample rooms and spaces that makes acquisition of knowledge more convenient for every student.

Having adequate and accommodating classrooms that cater all sorts of needs and intelligence is our dream for every Filipino student. We want them to have the privilege
to sit individually on single chairs with proper ventilation making them more attentive and active in discussion. The government still have to take the long course in making all schools as center of excellence, but because of continuous participation of the people to address the issue, there may be a faster pace to run the track. Lastly, the ultimate goal is to transform schools as better places where good citizens may be founded and eventually emerge as future leaders.

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