WHY TVL IS IMPORTANT IN K-12
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According to the PSA’s most recent statistics on the employment situation of the April 2016 Philippine labor force, there were approximately 40.7 million employed Filipinos. This represented almost 60% of the total population. Of this percentage, skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers, craft and related trade workers, technicians and associate professionals, plant and machine operators and assemblers, support workers, and the like comprised more than 30%. These occupation groups are all under Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL).

TVL is one of the major tracks included in the new K-12 educational program of the government, offered in Senior High School, TVL aims to arm high school students with employable skills should they choose not to pursue tertiary education.

The program supplies that “after finishing grade 10, students can obtain Certificates of Competency (COC) or a National Certificate Level I (NC I). After finishing a Technical-Vocational-Livelihood track in grade 12, a student may obtain a National Certificate II (NC II), provided he/she passes the competency-based assessment of TESDA. NC I and NC II improve employability of graduates in fields like Agriculture, Electronics, and Trade.”

Aside from employable skills, TVL track also provides a viable option for those who lack financial resources for college education. Lack of money is one of the primary reasons for college dropouts. Through TVL, a student would have better employment options even if he/she has not graduated from college.

Furthermore, in as much everyone wants to go to college, CHED’s 2008 research showed that out of 100 grade 1 students, only 14 were able to go and finish college. But despite several senators wanting everyone to go to college, for CHED chairman Dr. Patricia Licuanan, college is not necessary for everyone. According to her, the Philippines has this notion that everyone should get a college diploma. She further provided that it is high time the Filipino culture demolished that false notion and gave everyone the option to pursue their own specializations.

As a matter of fact, if a student desires to work abroad, having taken the TVL creates an edge. According to the 2014 survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF), around 66.5% of OFW’s
surveyed occupy position that TVL graduates are better equipped having gained on-the-job experience during senior high school.

In other words, the current educational program opens another set of doors of opportunities to our youth. Through the new and the basic K to 12 educational program, the importance of TVL is much more highlighted. Not only does it provide actual hands-on experience to SHS students useful for their future employment, but it also reformat the ever present stigma in our society that blue-collar jobs are the least worthy of attention among all occupations.

REFERENCES:

Philippine Statistics Authority

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