WORK IMMERSION: A HELPING ROUTE TOWARDS SUCCESS

by:
Gina R. Bagtas
Teacher II, Limay National High School - SHS

Education plays a vital role in one’s life. That is the sole reason why children undergo the process of learning in schools. Whether it be a public or private institution, both thrive to produce competent community members. However, there are things a student can learn outside the four walls of a classroom. This is one highlight why lawmakers in the country passed the Senate Bill No. 3286 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2012, also known as the K to 12 Program, among other reasons.

More than the additional two years of basic education, Filipino students can choose to go straight to work after acquiring the needed knowledge and skills or pursue a college degree. But whatever path they choose, these skills can be used in the actual workplace setting or in a university of their choice.

According to the study conducted by Jones, S. R., et al., in “The Meaning Students Make as Participants in Short-Term Immersion Programs” in 2012, it stated that students become more dedicated to integrating themselves to their future choice of career after being exposed to short-term internship. In K-12 Program, students are allowed to have an 80-hour work immersion to an institution of their choice provided that they can be of good help to their skills.

Like how the Department of Education (DepEd) envisions the Work Immersion Program to have an impact to the students, it has really been a helpful path for them for they are being exposed to the actual industry they would like to be in the future as well as the fact that students gain competencies they need in order to survive the field with the help of the people who are already professionals in that area.
It is same as Classical Conditioning developed by Ivan Pavlov wherein learning process occurs along the environmental stimulus and a naturally occurring stimulus. A student is being directly exposed to the actual workplace environment that helps more in the skill-building process.

But not only that, Work Immersion Program helps in building good relationship between the student and his/her coworkers. Being part of the industry means interaction with different kinds of people so students have the tendency to be more aware of their words and actions. It helps in the behavioral adjustment of a student, helping one to cope with the environment.

In countries like the Philippines where only 23 percentage of students finish a baccalaureate degree (Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company, 2017), being able to have the firsthand work experience is a great privilege especially when a student can have a National Certificate (NC) II which proves a person’s competency to be hired in a company. It is a gateway to a better future ensuring employment with the assurance of the mastery in the field, good cooperation of a student and communication skills one must possess.

What DepEd would like to inculcate is the importance of immersing the students to the actual field of their target in order to learn effectively because it is a crucial point in making progress. The standard solutions of learning are reading books and solving problems but being able to be an actual part of the system works differently, enabling students realize the choice they have and the choices they will make in the future.
References: