

Is K-12 Living Up to its Promise?

Zereth Saratorio | November 2019

Quality education, well-equipped students, efficient admission in college, higher employability as soon as graduating senior high school (SHS), rise of young professionals abroad and global competitiveness. These and more are said to be the long-term benefits of implementing K-12 program in the Philippines. However, such visions remain vague images in the eyes of parents and students.

It is unfortunate to say that as the implementation of K to 12 goes on, countless pitfalls have been observed over the years which leads the questioning of, “How much further will this state of experimentation go?” K-12 is designed to ideally define our youth today yet is bringing only undying inquisitiveness of the students and teachers who demand to see the effectivity of this curriculum.

Just in October 20, Alan Peter Cayetano, speaker of the House of Representatives stated that “the House will call for review of the effectiveness of the program amid concerns that it is not living up to its promise that students will gain skills for employment after senior high school (SHS)”. Quality education, well-equipped SHS graduates, and higher employability can be linked on this one. Which leads to say, these areas demand an assessment.

Ongoing reviews, researches and studies regarding the K-12 program effectivity towards students point out to the idea – this program is standing on an unclear path.

At present, the burden is evidently shown in the eyes of students who experienced such rotten experimentation. Abrupt changes and uneven execution of this program demands students to be highly-adaptive as possible which is not an easy task.

Being a forerunner subject in this experimentation, as it is deemed, I observed and experienced the numerous trial-and-errors in this program. Of course, its idea is revolutionary and could undoubtedly raise the competitive edge of our education system. However, frail implementation and deficient control over its operation might result to the failure of such ideal program.

That being said, it left me wondering as to until when will the set promises of K-12 be recognized? The last mile, Senior High School, which already took effect last 2015 is supposed to be the biggest success in its implementation. But regrettably, the outcome created a large gap between expectation and reality which further creates additional policies and programs to be implemented alongside K-12.

Such pit hole has not been thoroughly analyzed which leads to a non-recognition of the desired goals of the curriculum. I am afraid that if this would not be scrutinized and taken corrective action of, such promises would be held in a room of disappointments and failure.