

Philippine Education in the Modern World: A Trench for Global Academic Success or another Year of Educational Failure?

Lorie Mae P. Coloquit¹

¹Student, Master of Arts in English Education, Bicol University Open University
Corresponding authors' email : coloquitloriemae21@gmail.com

Abstract

This essay aims to identify and analyse perennial and current problems that need to be improved in Philippine education. For many years, education is believed to be the key to outsmart poverty and other economic issues (Butuyan, 2016). However, for decades, the country's educational system remains challenged by perennial concerns. That continues to escalate as the number of students increases each year that contributes to more societal dilemmas. Despite all this, the nation's educational system has been withstanding several issues. It became possible by initiating various interventions depending on its means of delivering quality education, allocating manageable tasks for teachers, and bringing forth calibre benchmarks that could lead the country out of the global academic ignominy. Thus, for the Philippines to attain its academic and economic goals, further research should be conducted not only to realize the cause of the issues but to contribute a better solution to each problem.

Keywords: *Philippine Education, Modern World, Global Success, Educational Failure*

INTRODUCTION

Education is believed to be the bridge to outsmart poverty, malnutrition, and other economic issues (Butuyan, 2016). Also, through quality education, people could be saved from the global unemployment crisis (Albright, 2017) and income inequality (Mishel, 2011). But, could this be obtainable if one of the major problems of the country is education, itself? Are we mindful that education has deteriorated for decades?

The educational system in the Philippines has been withstanding challenges and changes to deliver quality education for a long time. However, over the years, Philippine education has been facing perennial issues such as lack of instructional materials; inadequate school classrooms and buildings; lack of facilities; an undervalued teacher with endless tasks; lack of professional training for teachers; underemployment; and a lot more. Further, the current health crisis has constituted the recurrent plights with lack of available technology, internet connectivity, and software as a mode of learnings for both teachers and students, as well as the challenges in student's performance.

METHODOLOGY

This paper employs a literature-based methodology that enables to show evidence and link interdisciplinary research in providing clear evaluation and summary of previous and existing literature as its primary source of data.

To deliver further support to its claims, the author utilizes news articles relating to academic concerns in the country, case studies, and academic survey that could provide additional sources of information. Moreover, this paper does not provide an overview of the academic situation during the pandemic, however, distinguished issues were based on the identified challenges on the existing literature.

Current Concerns in the Students Proficiency

As a result of this unresolved predicament, based from the Global Competitiveness Index in 2017-2018, reported by the World Economic Forum that out of 137 countries, the Philippines has ranked 66th in primary education, 74th for quality education, 76th in Mathematics and Science (Schwab, 2018). Also, before the end of the year 2019, PISA assessment, an organization that measures student's ability in reading, math, and science, reported that out of 78 countries around the world, Philippines has marked the last rank in Mathematics and Science and 2nd to the last in Reading (Punongbayan, 2019). Recently before the year 2020 ends, the country ranks last in Grade 4 Mathematics and Science-based from a Netherland-based research institution report (Bernardo, 2020). Further, in the Senior High School setting, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) explicated that Senior High School graduates were not fully equipped and unprepared to be employed in the market industry due to lack of knowledge and skills about the 21st century (Lugtu, 2018). Despite the reduction of teacher's paper works from 36 to 10 forms to provide more time on teaching (Tomacruz, 2018), it still does not address the students' academic performance concern.

These were the outcome of the unresolved issues in the educational system of the Philippines and thus contributes to a more serious plight that causes the entire country to poorly perform and continue to be on the lowest rank in the international academic community.

Concurrently, in the year 2019 research survey, Institute for Management Development (IMD), a Swiss-based International organization that measures the standing, development of competencies, and attraction of local and global highly-skilled workforce, reveals that out of 63

countries around the world, Philippines ranked the 61st for Investment and Development; 31st in Appeal; 26th in Readiness; and got the 49th place in the overall rank (Khidhir, 2019). Hence, this attests that learners starting from the primary grade until gaining their senior diploma, graduates are not fully equipped with the necessary skills and proficiency that most companies are considering. In consequence, job mismatch and unemployment among graduates remains high in the country (Cudis, 2019).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Further Challenges that Hinders the Philippines in Attaining Quality Education

Knowing the identified outcomes, numbers of factors were distinguished. Which aggregated that affect the continuous progression of various educational reforms initiated by the government and its governing departments. In the study conducted by the Philippine Institutions for Development Studies (PIDS) in 2009 as cited in (Read & Atinc, 2017), it was found that changes in leadership and educational secretaries have greatly affected the continuity of reforms and its implementation. In particular, their focus of reform is primarily determined by their personal background and interest. Also, the same study postulated that funds allocated for education are based on the number of enrolled students, teachers, and other school particulars excluding school utilities, training activities, and other minor necessities in school.

Another issue that the Department of Education has been facing for years is the alleged corruption in the institution. In 2018, the Commission on Audit (COA) asked the Department of Education for an explanation regarding on the different “setbacks” regarding the utilized funds of the P20-Billion public-private partnership projects (Nonato, 2018). According to COA, only 436 out of 77, 704 beneficiary schools had received the information and communications technology package of the Computerisation Program from 2015 to 2017 and the loss of P25.21 million worth of learning materials due to inadequate storage facilities. Therefore, DepEd should first identify the gaps and weaknesses of its bureaucracy and address them. This ensures the dishonourable members would be eliminated and to abrogate corruption within the department (Reyes, 2010). Consequently, regardless of the unresolved academic concerns and other issues pertaining to the department’s ability to lead, Secretary Briones assures the continuity of education amidst the economic status of the country. In fact, in February this year 2020, the Department of Education implemented Sulong Edukalidad a reform that focuses on the review and updates of K-12

curriculum; improving the learning environment, requalify and develop the skills of teachers, and create support and collaboration for the engagement of stakeholders (Briones L., 2020). The program is the way the department confronts the problems. Thus, Secretary Briones does not lose sight of a positive result in battling all these challenges.

“Whatever is happening in the country; whatever challenges we are facing, education must continue. Education cannot wait; our learners cannot wait. We continue with the process so we can give hope and continuity, and contribute to the normalization of activities in the country,”
– Sec. Briones (Briones, 2019)

Conclusion

It is evident that Philippine education has been facing ample circumstances. The government should take all the reports seriously. However, the country cannot face everything at once. Therefore, further study and investigation should be employed to realize ways to address the lack of proficiency and skills not only to the students but with teachers. Moreover, we should not lose hope that the Philippines could deliver quality education and make a way to the global academic and market community. But while waiting for that time to come, government leaders, various academic institutions, teachers, and academic scholars should continue in moving forward in searching for better interventions. If these challenges remain neglected, the country’s next-generation would suffer more than what we have in the present years.

References

- Bernardo, J. (2020). *PH ranks last among 58 countries in Grade 4 math, science: study*. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/12/09/20/ph-ranks-last-among-58-countries-in-grade-4-math-science-study>
- Briones. (2019, November 20). *Briones: Ensure educational continuity amid challenges*. Retrieved from Department of Education: <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2019/11/20/briones-ensure-educational-continuity-amid-challenges/>
- Briones, L. (2020, February 14). *Sulong EduKalidad a move to innovate PH education, says Briones*. Retrieved from Department of Education:

- <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2020/02/14/sulong-edukalidad-a-move-to-innovate-ph-education-says-briones/>
- Butuyan, J. R. (2016). *The Key to Solving Poverty*. Retrieved from [https://opinion.inquirer.net/:
https://opinion.inquirer.net/95388/key-solving-poverty](https://opinion.inquirer.net/:https://opinion.inquirer.net/95388/key-solving-poverty)
- Cudis, C. (2019, July 11). *Labor, employer sectors unite vs. job mismatch*. Retrieved from [https://www.pna.gov.ph/:
https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1074716](https://www.pna.gov.ph/:https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1074716)
- Durban, M., J., & Catalan, R. D. (2012). ISSUES AND CONCERNS OF PHILIPPINE EDUCATION THROUGH THE YEARS. *ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES*.
- Khidhir, S. (2019, November 20). *Global talent ranking tells a familiar ASEAN tale*. Retrieved from [theaseanpost.com:
https://theaseanpost.com/article/global-talent-ranking-tells-familiar-asean-tale](https://theaseanpost.com:https://theaseanpost.com/article/global-talent-ranking-tells-familiar-asean-tale)
- Lugtu, R. C. (2018, June 14). *Reforming the PH education system*. Retrieved from [https://www.manilatimes.net/:
https://www.manilatimes.net/2018/06/14/business/columnists-business/reforming-the-ph-education-system/407929/](https://www.manilatimes.net/:https://www.manilatimes.net/2018/06/14/business/columnists-business/reforming-the-ph-education-system/407929/)
- PUNONGBAYAN, J. (DECEMBER 4, 2019). *[ANALYSIS] Dismal PISA rankings: A wake-up call for Filipinos*. <https://rappler.com/voices/thought-leaders/analysis-dismal-programme-international-student-assessment-rankings-wake-up-call-filipinos>.
- Read, L., & Atinc, T. M. (2017). Investigations into Using Data to Improve Learning: A Case Study. *Global Economy and Development*, 24.
- Reyes, V. C. (2010). The Philippine Department of Education: challenges of policy implementation amidst corruption. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236336134_The_Philippine_Department_of_Education_challenges_of_policy_implementation_amidst_corruption.
- REYNALDO C. LUGTU, J. (2018, June 14). *Reforming the PH education system*. Retrieved from [https://www.manilatimes.net/:](https://www.manilatimes.net/)

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2018/06/14/business/columnists-business/reforming-the-ph-education-system/407929/>

TOMACRUZ, S. (2018, SEPT 4). *DepEd reduces paperwork required of teachers*. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/>: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/deped-reduces-number-paperwork-teachers>