

Position Paper: The Implementation of the K -12 Curriculum in the Philippines

K-12 is an academic program that covers kindergarten and 12 years of basic education with the goal of providing adequate time for proficiency of various concepts and skills to prepare graduates for tertiary education, middle-level skills development, and diverse career paths. However, the benefits the students can realistically gain has been an issue ever since the implementation of the said program last 2011. Despite this, the implementation of the K-12 program is truly beneficial for the educational system in the Philippines with regards to the preparation of the students in the tertiary learning and the competency in global job market.

A prominent case against the K -12 curriculum is the lack of preparation for the students career-wise. As stated in an article by Travis King on the *Positive and Negative Impact of K to 12*, "It should be pointed out that from a curriculum point of view, most of these can be crammed into the ten years rather than add on two more years." However, this is merely an indirect result of the current educational format rather than a direct consequence of the same. In fact, students of the new system are able to graduate at 18 years old which means that these individuals would be equipped with the skills and competency to be fit for employment; hence, students have the choice whether to pursue college learning or not. Moreover, the previous curriculum entailed students to make choices for careers at the age of 16, which can be highly problematic since "students can often feel the discrepancy between the "ideal" choice and the physical, socio-economic, personal and, in particular, emotional constraints; they may feel forced to make a choice, at a time when they do not yet have a well-shaped career plan (Safta, 2015)."

Firstly, the K-12 curriculum is able to pave the path for students to have a gainful employment. In the context of psychology, gainful employment is a positive psychology concept that explores the benefits of work and employment (Snyder, 2011). The aforementioned program is able to provide this to the students through providing a substantial chance for having a higher position in the workforce. The additional knowledge and skills that the student is able to acquire through specialized tracks will ultimately boost the competency of these future employees or entrepreneurs. Furthermore, these skills can be acquired through the specialized tracks the Department of Education is able to offer to these students.

Secondly, mastery of a wide variety of skills is one of the advantages of the said program. As stated in *How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching*, "To develop mastery, students must acquire component skills, practice integrating them, and know when to apply what they have learned." The K-12 program can do such because it allows the students to focus on developing these particular skills while also providing the means to practice the integration of these skills as well as the application through Immersion. Immersion as a subject in the Academic track is intended for the student to fully prepare for college. Moreover, it could be more useful than research or some other activity since the student is able to physically experience what certain jobs will entail.

Lastly and most importantly, a higher quality of education can be attained through the K-12 program. Douglas C. Bennet's periodical states that the only valid measure of quality education is "value added" wherein it poses the difference between attainments upon completing the certain education and by the time it began. Further, "value added" is the difference an institution makes in the students' education. The aforementioned program is able to provide a significant impact on the educational experience of the students through the complex yet beneficial lessons the students are required to learn. These lessons are not only through an academic lens, but also in the context of basic human skills that can aide in developing a functional member of society. This particular skill can be apparent on how the program teaches students to be competent and proficient in doing various tasks.

In conclusion, the K-12 curriculum has various benefits that provide the students an overall preparedness for tertiary learning and competency in the global market. These issues regarding its implementation can be considered as highly problematic due to how the program is still recent and will ultimately take time for the Filipinos to adjust. In the long run, the different benefits outweigh the adversity of the sad program.