



EDUCATION – HOW LONG?

Ameselle S. Pascual
Class of 1995, College of the Holy Spirit of Tarlac
Business Administration Major in Banking and Finance

Education is strongly important, which many believe as the ladder to success. But how long should one spend at school to finally achieve his goal?

As early as three years old (or sometimes even two), parents start sending their toddlers to school. Though informal education is taught at home, with mom as the first teacher, children are still encouraged to go to school at an early age. But why do parents do this? Don't they think that it is an agony for kids to be at school instead of staying home playing with their Barbie dolls and robots? At school, toddlers learn their ABC's, count 1 2 3, and sing DO, RE, MI. Not only do they acquire knowledge from books and their teachers but also make friends as well as experience the outside world. As many psychologists say, the minds of these children are like sponge. They can easily absorb what is taught. This is the best reason I see why many parents send their young kids to school, though education fee is rapidly increasing.

When elementary steps in, they become more independent. They can be left alone, and rarely will you see children crying because their parents left the room secretly. Kids have grown to be more outgoing and made more friends. As part of their development, they learn more from teachers as well as their classmates, who save them from terror teachers during graded recitations.

Middle school is a bridge between the elementary and high school. At this stage, adolescents, as what they are called, face a lot of changes and adjustments. They have a different outlook towards life and of course, education. Many of them begin to hate their parents, forcing them to go to school and do their homework; and their teachers for giving them voluminous school projects. They hardly find time to hang out with their peers, who they consider the most important people.

Come high school, for Koreans, is the busiest stage in their lives since they have to study from morning to late evening to prepare for the University Entrance Examination. These teens burn the candles on both ends going to institutes or staying in the library. Nonetheless, for many countries, high school life is the most exciting part of their education.

After choosing their college or university, students are prepared to a more serious stage in one's life-a lifelong career. Students often undergo confusion on what to major as they are sometimes impelled by their parents to follow their footsteps. Still, education doesn't end here. Many graduates after getting a job still continue with graduate school and later on pursue a doctorate degree, which they believe would eventually lead them to their targeted success.

The answer as to how long one should study is a personal choice. Success depends on the individual, but education indeed plays a vital role to achieve it.

Questions for discussions:

1. At what age do children start to go to school?
2. How long are children in your country educated?
3. What are the different stages of education?
4. State the importance of education.
5. How can education help you achieve success?