



## K+12 EDUCATION—UPLIFTING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

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As the Department of Education (DepEd) bares its 12 year basic education plan, a lot of critiques have been raised relative to the said program to be implemented in the Philippines. We all know that we have undergone the 10-year education program for centuries now and introducing this new program is not really new to us since some of the exclusive schools here in our country have implemented this said program. The program, which is called “K plus 12” means Kinder plus 12 years. Thus, the K+12 System will basically include the Universal Kindergarten, 6 years of Elementary, 4 years of junior high school with an additional 2 years for senior high school. Statistics itself shows that only 16% of college students graduate from college. Having this proposal will actually benefit the 84% who may not get a college degree.

The DepEd feels that the kind of education (the four-year high school program in the Philippines) is inadequate and therefore insufficient in preparing the high school graduates for the “world of work” and “higher education”. The K+12 aims to make the basic education sufficient enough so that anyone who graduates will be gainfully employed and have a productive life. Moreover, the said program aims to uplift the quality of education in our country, not only for the graduates to be easily employed but it also aims to meet the standards required for professionals who would want to work abroad. This kind of system aims to fully enhance and develop the students so they would be well-prepared especially in emotional and cognitive aspects.

We know pretty well that a lot of students and parents are not in favor of the so-called program. For the students, it means additional two years of study and for the parents, it’s additional expenses. Indeed there’s an undeniable fact that this would require more budgets not only for the government but for the parents as well. Not to consider the fact that students will need more classrooms, school supplies and facilities, the program will also require more qualified teachers too.

Knowing all these constraints, the fact still remains that as for the parents (like me), we have all been doing our best in pursuing our child’s education. Let us remember that this program aims for what’s best for our children for we all know that this will make them globally competitive, which will mean success not only for our child but for us too. Yes, there may be a lot of factors to consider for the “K+12” to succeed, but as long as we open our minds to change and we will take it in a very optimistic way, we can definitely attain our most-aspired educational standards which would eventually play a great role in our country’s progress and development. It will even uplift us and our country from poverty. It will reach out to all kinds of learners regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and social status which is also in keeping with the goal of the United Nations- that initiated Education for all.

### Questions for discussion:

1. Will the K+12 Education enhance the students’ knowledge?
2. Will this program uplift not only the education of the Filipino people but also their lifestyle?
3. How will the K+12 Education be an answer to our country’s problem on poverty?
4. Do the pros weigh more than the cons of the said program?
5. Do you agree of this proposal by the DepEd?