

Teachers' and Senior High School Students' Attitude toward the K to 12 Basic Education Program in the Philippines

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Abstract— This paper provides an overview of senior high school (SHS) in the Philippines and our attempted investigation of the teachers' and senior high school (SHS) students' attitude toward the K to 12 basic education program with a survey/ questionnaire. The total number of completed questionnaires received was 22 teachers and 163 students. This SHS education has started in SY 2016-2017 and refers to Grades 11 and 12, the last two years of the basic education program. On the base of this study, most of teachers and SHS students approve the additional two years of SHS in the K to 12 program and they appreciated being provided the opportunity to gain or improve students' skills and knowledge in SHS for students. It develops in them a perspective of looking at their future life. And all teachers expect that the K to 12 Program will help their professional growth and uplift their teaching career in the future.

Keywords— K to 12 Basic Education Program, Senior High School, Teachers' Attitude, Students' Attitude

I. INTRODUCTION

Senior High School (SHS) covers the last two years of the K to 12 Basic Education Program that DepEd has been implementing since 2012 and includes Grades 11 and 12. It means Kindergarten and the 12 years of elementary and secondary education. The Philippines had only 10 years in basic education before the implementation of this program. In comparison with Pre K to 12 Program, kindergarten and SHS are newly added.

The implementation of the K to 12 program will be phased (see TABLE 1). Universal kindergarten was introduced in SY 2011-2012. In the following year, SY 2012-2013, the new curriculum was offered to incoming Grade 1 as well as to incoming junior and senior high school students (Grade 7 or High School Year 1). The target of DepEd is to put in place the necessary infrastructure and other arrangements needed to provide SHS education by SY 2016-2017.

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TABLE I

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE K TO 12

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Grade 12													
Grade 11													
Grade 10													
Grade 9													
Grade 8													
Grade 7													
Grade 6													
Grade 5													
Grade 4													
Grade 3													
Grade 2													
Grade 1													
Kindergarten													

① In p le m e n t a t i o n o f G r a d e 1 i n K t o 12 c u r r i c u l u m
 ② I n p l e m e n t a t i o n o f G r a d e 7 (H S Y e a r 1) i n K t o 12 c u r r i c u l u m
 ③ G r a d e 11 (H S Y e a r 5) i n p l e m e n t a t i o n

In SHS, students will go through a core curriculum and subjects under a track of their choice. SHS covers eight learning areas as part of its core curriculum, and adds specific tracks based on four disciplines: Academic (which includes Business, Science & Engineering, Humanities & Social Science, and a General Academic strand), Technical- Vocational-Livelihood (with highly specialized subjects with TESDA qualifications), Sports and Arts & Design. It aims to uplift the quality of education in the Philippines. Additionally, the two additional years will equip learners with skills that will better prepare them for their future work or higher education.

SHS is offered free in public schools and there is a SHS voucher program in place for public junior high school completers as well as UNESCO Education Service Contracting of private high schools should they choose to take SHS in private institutions. This means that parents who have SHS students don't need to pay all their expenses for the SHS education.

The next part in this article explains the methodology in this study. While the third on the explanation of the findings from a research examining the teachers' and SHS students' attitude toward the K to 12 basic education program with a survey/questionnaire. In conclusion, the importance of the K to 12 basic education program is finally stated.

II. METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researchers designed and implemented a questionnaire for the teachers and SHS students toward the implementation of the K to 12 basic education program. The study area is in Laguna, the Philippines. They had visited four selected SHS and investigated 22 teachers and 163 students.

And they were collected immediately after each respondent had answered a set of questions.

TABLE II
THE SIZE OF SAMPLE

SHS	Teachers	Students
School A	3	31
School B	0	29
School C	2	54
School D	17	49

Table II shows us the sample size of each SHS in this study. In School A, 45 teachers and 54 students had answered. In School B, 29 students had answered. In School C, 2 teachers and 54 students had answered. In School D, 15 teachers and 49 students had answered.

A. Question-By-Question Result Regarding Teachers

A questionnaire for the teachers is composed of the following nine questions shown in boldface.

Question [1] Do you think that K-12 will be successful?

Question [2] Are you in favor of K-12 education system?

Regarding the above two questions, all respondents answered “Yes” and they appreciated being provided the opportunity to study in SHS for students.

Question [3] If “Yes” or “No” Why?

The reasons of respondents for answering “yes” are following shown in italics:

- “Learners can learn their own potentials.” (School A)*
- “K to 12 will be successful because students will be trained to become globally competitive.” (School A)*
- “It is a ladderized education system.” (School A)*
- “SHS students can well prepare for their future.” (School C),*
- “Gain more knowledge and skills that they need to be globally competitive. (School C),*
- “It will make students to be more globally competitive.” (School D)*
- “It helps improve knowledge and confidence of the students.” (School D)*
- “To uplift the educational / job opportunities for the students.” (School D)*

Question [4] As a teacher, what are the benefits of K to 12?

The following shown in italics are that the respondents answered as the benefits of K to 12:

- “K to 12 program will be successful if given priority in giving materials and equipment.”(School A)*
- “It is the key for successful learners.” (School A)*
- “It will help students to be equipped with knowledge and skills.” (School A)*
- “Gain more knowledge and skills that they need to be globally competitive.” (School C)*
- “Less tasking in lesson plan preparation.” (School D)*
- “It will help in developing a more competitive young professionals.” (School D)*
- “Students will be ready for college and vocational courses.” (School D)*

“Additional time for students to improve their knowledge.” (School D)

“The voucher program of K to 12 education system serves as a benefit.” (School D)

“Our country will surely be able to compete with other Asian countries when it comes to education.” (School D)

“It enhances my teaching skills.” (School D)

Question [5] What are the problems that you may encounter because of K-12?

As for this questions, most of teachers had answered that the extension of years in school causes more financial problems and lack of facilities and teachers. In other words, it challenges the sustainability of the K to 12 program. Other than that, three teachers in School D had answered the following shown in italics:

“Transition period is difficult since most private school teachers do not have enough training.”

“Most students are unaware of the implications of additional grade levels.”

“The students can't detach themselves from their Junior High School attitudes and bad study habits.”

Question [6] Do you think that the following workloads increases?

This question is the type of multiple choice that respondents can select one or more answer choices. Eight alternatives are listed in the left side of TABLE III. On the basis of the survey findings, their most common answer was alternative [1] and/or [5]. 16 out of all 22 teachers chose. The third most answer was alternatives [6]. 14 out of 22 teachers chose. Therefore, workload for teachers has increased than before the implementation of K to 12 program.

TABLE III
TEACHERS' WORKLOAD

Answer choices	A	B	C	D
[1]Consultation of parents	2	-	2	12
[2]Coaching club activities	3	-	1	8
[3]Scoring a test	2	-	0	11
[4]Faculty meeting	2	-	1	10
[5]School management duties	3	-	2	11
[6]Hours of teaching	2	-	0	12
[7]Homework checkout	1	-	0	10
[8]Number of teacher's Training	4	-	1	8

Question [7] Are you prepared for K - 12?

As for this question, the numbers of respondents who had answered “Yes” are three in School A, one in School, thirteen of in School D.

Question [8] Do you think the K-12 will help your professional growth and uplift your teaching career in the future?

As for this question, all respondents in 3 SHS had answered “Yes”.

Question [9] Do you have any suggestions /comments?

The following shown in italics are teachers' suggestions

/comments:

“Government agencies should donate materials, equipment, tools that are necessary in the teaching/learning situations of our students.” (School C)

“K-12 program needs to be explained more to parents and students so that there would be no misconception especially in choosing strand/track.” (School C)

“More trainings should be conducted for private teachers.” (School D)

“Hire more competent professional teachers with specialization.” (School D)

“To be a bit strict on the grading system since then that K-12 education is a way to prepare our students for a better job.” (School D)

“Additional rooms & teachers. Adjustment of schedule.” (School D)

B. Question-By-Question Result Regarding Students

A questionnaire for the SHS students is composed of the following nine questions shown in boldface.

Question [1] Do you think that K-12 will be successful?

On the basis of the survey findings, three respondents in School B and one in School D answered “No”. The others in four selected SHSs answered “Yes”. Their outlook of the K-12 remains strongly positive.

Question [2] Are you in favor of K-12 education system?

On the basis of the survey findings, four respondents in School B, three in School C and one respondent in School D answered “No”. The others in four selected SHSs answered “Yes”. Most students appreciated being provided the opportunity to study in SHS for their futures.

Question [3] If “Yes” or “No” Why?

The reasons of respondents for answering “yes” about Question [2] are following shown in italics:

It can help students gain experience and later get a job.” (All SHS).

“It improves our skills and helps us prepare in college.” (All SHS)

“It is free education through voucher.” (All SHS)

“It has a lot of benefits to enhance our skills making us ready for our chosen career to be more competitive here and abroad.” (All SHS)

On the other hand, the reasons of respondents for answering “no” are following shown in italics:

“We have to learn more and improve my skills”. (School B)

“That’s not necessary. We could be globally competitive even though we don’t have the K-12 program. It just depends on how an individual work at strive for his/her future. ” (School B)

“There are additional 2 years of learning in high school”. (School B)

“Some facilities are not available to use for us”. (School B).

“Financially-challenged families will find it difficult to send their children to school even with subsidies, because of additional school related expenses”. (Three respondents in School C answered the same.)

Question [4] As a student, what are the benefits of K to 12?

Table IV shows us the list of benefits that students answered about the K to 12 program. Their most common answer was “Improve skills. Study more”. 54.8% of School A students, 31.0% of School B students, 57.4% of School C students and 57.1% of School D students answered that. Their second most common answer was “Be better their future life”. 41.9% of School A students, 10.3% of School B students, 38.9% of School C students and 38.8% of School D students answered that.

TABLE IV
STUDENTS’ BENEFITS OF K TO 12

Answer	A	B	C	D
Improve skills. Study more.	17	9	31	28
Be better their future life	13	3	21	19
Voucher	0	11	0	1
Others	0	2	0	2
No answer	1	4	2	0
Total Respondents	31	29	54	49

Question [5] What are the problems that you may encounter because of K to 12?

Table III shows us the list of problems that students answered about the K to 12 program. Their most common answer was “Lack of facilities and teachers”. 67.7% of School A students, 10.3% of School B students, 55.6% of School C students and 28.6% of School D students answered that. Their second most common answer was “Financial problem”. 9.7% of School A students, 27.6% of School B students, 13.0% of School C students and 65.3% of School D students answered that. The reason of the higher ratio is School D is a private.

TABLE V
STUDENTS’ PROBLEMS OF K TO 12

Answer	A	B	C	D
Lack of facilities and teachers	21	3	30	14
Financial problem	3	8	7	32
Study hard	2	10	6	0
Time allotments	0	0	6	0
Others	3	4	3	3
No answer	2	4	2	0
Total Respondents	31	29	54	49

Question [6] Are you prepared for K to 12?

One respondent in School A, four in School B, six in School C and nine in School D answered “No”. The others in four selected SHSs answered “Yes”. According to this result, most of students are prepared for K to 12 Basic Education Program.

Question [7] Do you think the K-12 will help you better in getting a job in the future?

Two respondents in School B and one in School D answered “No”. The others in four selected SHSs answered “Yes”. On the basis of this result, most of students think that the K to 12 Program help them enter the job market and educational institutions.

Question [8] Do you know senior high school (SHS) voucher program?

According to the Department of Education (DepEd), the Philippines, the SHS voucher program is intended for Grade 10 (Junior High School, JHS) completers who wish to pursue SHS education in non-DepEd Schools such as Private High Schools, Colleges, and Universities; Local Universities and Colleges; State Universities and Colleges; and Technical and Vocational Schools, starting SY 2016-2017. The amount of the vouchers depends on the SHS where the student will enroll. The recipients from public/DepEd JHS who enroll in a non-DepEd SHS located in cities and municipalities outside the National Capital Region and that are not Highly Urbanized Cities receive a full voucher amount of PhP 17,500.

On the basis of the survey findings, each one respondents in School A, School B and School C answered “No”. The others in four selected SHSs answered “Yes”. Therefore, most of students knows SHS voucher program.

Question [9] What are you going to do after SHS?

Regarding this question, their most common answer was “Continue to study”. 70.6% of all SHS students had answered as like this. The second most answer was “Find a job”. 25.2% of all had answered. On the ground of this result, students who answered the questionnaire are willing to study in the future.

TABLE IV
STUDENTS’ PLANS AFTER SHS

Answer	A	B	C	D
Continue to study	17	22	32	44
Find a job	21	5	14	1
Not decided	0	0	7	4
Do nothing	0	0	1	0
No answer	0	2	0	0
Total Respondents	31	29	54	49

III. CONCLUSION

On the basis of the survey findings, most of teachers and SHS students approve the additional two years of SHS in the K to 12 program and they appreciated being provided the opportunity to gain or improve students’ skills and knowledge in SHS for students. It develops in them a perspective of looking at their future life. And all teachers expect that the K to 12 Program will help their professional growth and uplift their teaching career in the future.

On the other hand, the additional two years after junior high school causes more financial problems and lack of facilities and teachers. Therefore, the government needs to solve these issues in cooperation with SHS with parents’ understanding the implementation of the K to 12 basic education program.

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