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Contemporary Issues in Philippine Education: A Call for Legislative Action



Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2335071/Who-needs-school-bus-Filipino-pupils-ford-streams-ride-motorbikes-build-RAFT-to-class.html>

This policy brief presents two issues in education that call for the creation of new laws and proper implementation of existing ones: day care center and teacher preparation. A brief of these issues is provided, as well as its implications for policy-making.

Day care centers are becoming increasingly popular. Indeed, more and more parents are beginning to see the importance and advantage of sending their children to day care centers. In line with this, day care centers are becoming an alternative venue for employment of education graduates. While there are legislations that support this (e.g., Republic Act 6972, which call for day care centers to be established in each barangay in the goal of providing total development and protection of children), its full effect is yet to be observed and felt by children, parents, and teachers alike. Furthermore, the need for standardization and systematization of day care operations call for the passage of more specific laws allowing this, and stricter implementation of related laws by local government units in addressing day care centers' needs such as lack of facilities (Abulon et al., 2010).



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Another issue is the finding that the funds invested by the government on teacher preparation through teacher education in a state university is not being maximized. This is evident in the significant yet weak relationship between government investment on teacher preparation and performance in the licensure exam (Bedural, David, Abulon, & Luceño, 2014) and increasing number of teacher education graduates who are employed in low-skilled, non-teaching jobs (Abulon et al., 2014). Hence, this calls for a review of government spending to ensure that funds are being optimally used.

Here is a summary of policy recommendations for these issues:

1. Pending bills aimed at systematization of day care center operations need to be passed immediately. Also, local government unit should address day care centers' needs such as lack of facilities (Abulon et al., 2010).
2. The thrust and direction of government spending on teacher education must be reviewed by the legislative branch in order to ensure that the funds are being maximized. Further, stricter regulations of SUCs must be implemented in order to make sure that government investment on education programs are properly spent (Abulon et al., 2014; Bedural et al., 2014).

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