

Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program Awareness

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Abstract: This study was conducted to determine general level of awareness of parents in Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program of Saint Anthony's School of Matain, Zambales, Philippines. The descriptive survey method was employed. The study involved a total of two hundred forty six (246) parents randomly selected from the school. Findings revealed that parents are not fully aware on the issue of Enhanced K+12 Program and its advantages locally and internationally. Chi-Square analysis revealed that level of Enhanced K+12 Program Awareness varies with age, sex, marital status and educational attainment of parents.

Keywords: Awareness, K+12Program, Knowledge, Understanding.

1. INTRODUCTION

Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program is one of the most important educational issues facing the Philippines today. K +12 means Kindergarten and the 12 years of elementary and secondary education. It seeks to provide for a quality 12-year basic education program that each Filipino is entitled to. This is consistent with Article XIV, Section 2(1) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which states that "The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society." (DepED discussion paper: 2010)

School as an agent of social change and transmitter of culture provides the most powerful source of intellectual energy that shapes our culture and ideology. Unfortunately, the state of Philippine education system is significantly declining. There are eloquent proofs of the failing system as reported by the 1925 Monroe Survey to EDCOM Report in 1991 and the recent Presidential Task Force on Education in 2008. Not to mention the NCEE experience and the declining standards in higher education: the recognition problem with which the Washington Accord prescribes and as well as the Bologna Process requiring 12 years of education in practice of profession in European countries. Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program is an educational reform created to address these issues. It is a major overhaul of the basic education curriculum which entails cost to government, families, workers and parents. In the long run, however, the benefits from the Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program will outweigh the additional costs that will be incurred by both government and families. Education has a serious role to play in helping to give out the correct message about Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program. Since parents involvement and support influence the education of their children whether in public or in private school, it is necessary to know what level of awareness they possess.

Purpose of the Study:

This study involved creating knowledge and understanding among parents about the issue of K+12 system and disseminating information on the benefits and long-term effect in Philippine economy.

Research Questions:

The study was guided by four main research questions and one hypothesis. The research question were:

1. What is the general level of awareness of parents in Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program?
2. What is the knowledge and level of understanding of parents in Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program?
3. What are the sources of understanding of parents on Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program?
4. Is there a significant association between the Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program awareness and parent's profile?

Hypothesis:

There is no statistical significant association between the Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program awareness and parent's profile.

2. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive-survey method of research was utilized in the study. Descriptive studies, according to Calmorin (1995), are valuable in providing facts in which scientific judgments may be based. They provide essential knowledge about the nature of the objects and persons. It is an organized attempt to analyse, interpret, and report the present status of an institution, group or area and this method signifies the gathering regarding present condition. The study was conducted in Saint Anthony's High School, Subic, Philippines, A total sample of 246 parents were drawn using Slovin's formula as explained by Calmorin (2003) at the 5% margin of error and random sampling technique to obtain the parametric reliability and validity of the data gathered through the questionnaire. The instrument used in the study was a self-developed questionnaire tagged "Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program Awareness Questionnaire."

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**Research Question 1:**

As reflected in TABLE I, majority or 87.81% of the parents have heard about Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program

TABLE I: Have you heard about Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program?

Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	216	87.81
No	30	12.19
Total	246	100

TABLE II shows that only 41.06% of the parents gave the correct answer when asked what K + 12 means. On the whole, the general level of awareness of parents on K+12 issues is quite low.

TABLE II: What does K + 12 mean?

Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
12 years of basic education	107	43.50
Kindergarten and 12 years of elementary and secondary education (correct answer)	101	41.06
Don't know	38	15.45
Total	246	100

Research Question 2:

As reflected in TABLE III, on the knowledge and understanding of enhanced K+12 Program, only 59.76% of the respondents believed that Enhanced K+12 Program will benefit them. Of this 59.76% who answered YES, 18.36% of the parents agreed that the economy will experience accelerated growth in the long run as reflected in TABLE IV. It is sad to note that only 3.40% of the parents knew that K+12 will facilitate mutual recognition of Filipino graduates and professionals in connection with the Washington Accord and Bologna Approach.

Obviously there is a knowledge gap; parents were not fully aware that Enhanced K+12 Program will fully benefit the country locally and internationally.

TABLE III: Do you think Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program will benefit us?

Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	147	59.76
No	54	21.95
Don't know	45	18.29
Total	246	100

TABLE IV: In what ways can we use K+12 to our benefit?

	Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Gives more time to students to master competencies and skills, thus, allowing for a more holistic development.	27	18.36
2.	Prepares graduate with essential skills for the world of work.	41	27.89
3.	Our economy will experience accelerated growth in the long run.	27	18.36
4.	Facilitates mutual recognition of Filipino graduates and professionals following the Washington Accord and Bologna Accord.	5	3.40
5.	Combination of item No. 1 & 2	47	31.97
	Total	147	100

Research Question 3:

On the Sources of Knowledge and Understanding on Enhanced K+12 Program, TABLE V displays television as the most popular source when they were asked to identify the source of information. Other sources (schools, internet, newspapers, radio, community meetings, and municipal workers) were relatively small. The figures indicate that not enough is being done at the school and community level education using a face to face approach. Also, government should tap all mass media approach on K+12 awareness.

TABLE V: Sources of Information on Enhanced K+12 Basic Education Program

Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
TV	170	85.86
schools	12	6.06
internet	6	3.03
Radio	3	1.52
Newspaper	3	1.52
Community meetings	2	1.01
municipal workers	2	1.01
Total	198	100

In addition, TABLE VI shows that a very small number of people (19 out of 246) had attended some sort of workshop, seminar or training on K+12 awareness. The results also show that very few agencies are active at a community level as reflected in TABLE VII. This again highlights that fewer agencies are working with people on a face to face level.

There is obviously a need for agencies promoting Enhanced K+12 Program at a community level.

TABLE VI: During the last 12 months have you or any members of your family attended any meetings or seminars on K+12?

Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	19	7.72
No	227	92.28
Total	246	100

TABLE VII: If 'yes' which agency organized the training?

Respondent Response	Frequency	Percentage
Private School	2	10.53
Public School	15	78.94
Barangay	2	10.53
municipal workers	0	0
religious group	0	0
Others, pls specify	0	0
Total	19	100

Research Question 4:

SPSS version 17.0 was used to test the significant association between age, sex, marital status and educational attainment of parents in their level of Enhanced K+12 Program Awareness. Using Chi-Square, the computed p value is <0.05 , thus the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that level of Enhanced K+12 Program Awareness varies with age, sex, marital status and educational attainment of parents.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusions were drawn based on the findings obtained from the study:

1. The findings of this study showed that there is a low level of K+12 awareness among parents.
2. Parents are not fully aware that Enhanced K+12 Program will fully benefit the country locally and internationally.
3. Findings revealed that not enough is being done at the school and community level education using a face to face approach.
4. The level of Enhanced K+12 Program Awareness varies with age, sex, marital status and educational attainment of parents.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINDINGS:

This low level of K+12 Awareness among parents has implications for management effectiveness:

1. The government should be actively involved in raising awareness on K+12 issue. Existing government policies, programmes and actions should be made known to all education stake holders. This can be made known through the mass media i.e. television, newspapers and the radio and by circulating various published materials on a continuous basis as part of awareness campaign on K+12 Basic Education Program.
2. Government should develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated education and outreach programmes for parents. This can be enhanced through conferences and seminars. Such conferences will provide better understanding of K+12.
3. The government should establish appropriate funding mechanisms for raising parents' awareness.
4. Government officials can make significant contributions to improve public awareness of K+12 issues by making it a priority issue when speaking in public.
5. Department of Education should develop posters and hand-outs on K+12 awareness to be given to parents and community.

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