



ISSN: 0975-833X

Available online at <http://www.journalcra.com>

International Journal of Current Research
Vol. 11, Issue, 12, pp.8835-8837, December, 2019

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.37428.12.2019>

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF CURRENT RESEARCH**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TOWARDS ASEAN EDUCATION STANDARD

**Junry A. Eñego, Bella Verda M. Oliveros, Alvin S. Loremia, Ricardo S. Aballe,
Joanne E. Berongan and Marilyn M. Miranda**

De La Salle ASMC, Department of Education (DepEd) and Cebu Technological University - Main Campus,
Philippines

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 04th September, 2019
Received in revised form
18th October, 2019
Accepted 25th November, 2019
Published online 30th December, 2019

Key Words:

ASEAN,
Educational Standards,
Open Education.

ABSTRACT

The Educational Standards of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are one of the most important factors to consider in transforming individuals since it tackles the empowerment of each country. In the 2018 educational ranking, only five (5) out of eleven (11) countries in the ASEAN made to top one hundred (100) these are Singapore who made to rank 1, Malaysia who made to rank 19, Indonesia who made to rank 57, the Philippines who made to rank 75, and Brunei who made to rank 100. On the other hand, in the Philippines educational ranking, the University of the Philippines is rank 1, Ateneo de Manila University rank 2, De La Salle University rank 3, and University of Santo Tomas rank 4. The schools in the Philippines are striving for excellence so that Filipinos can compete easily with other educational standards of ASEAN nations.

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Citation: Junry A. Eñego, Bella Verda M. Oliveros, Alvin S. Loremia, Ricardo S. Aballe, Joanne E. Berongan and Marilyn M. Miranda. 2019. "Philippine educational system towards asean education standard", International Journal of Current Research, 11, (12), 8835-8837.

INTRODUCTION

The educational system is a fundamental interest of each government administration of the country since it will lead to the main solution to the different adversities that the country is experiencing. Government administrations of each country establishes its unique educational programs to aid the problems and issues on the educational system. However, there are reasons to consider why people can't afford to be in school and one of which is due to lack of capacity of family resources e.g. economic and financial, diversities, and family background. This will affect the economic development of the country if the government will not create and develop a solution to this educational crisis. That is why the government formulated an Open Education (OE) and/or Distance Education (DE) as one of the springboards in addressing the needs of the learners which idea is to cater to the different adversities of the learners. Willems, J. (2012) states that the open education is the new evolution of learning since it oversees the equality and standards through new educational methods and this can be applied to the students though it is challenging because of the new methods. This is one of the alternatives to access open education and digital materials for learning.

As years go by, the system of the open education and distance education is on the process and evaluated according to its purpose while its strengths, strategies, and methods are more effective than the previous years toward the efficiency learning process. But then, there are factors to consider in establishing an open education and distance education and one of which is the technology consideration because it allows virtual interfacing both facilitator and learner who are into that particular educational system. It aids the communication barrier between the facilitators and learners who availed the educational systems. Technology has greater consideration such as on-time streaming, submission of the documents, researches, guidelines, etc. but reports and concerns are affecting the services of technology such as internet connectivity, mismatch understanding, and device faulty. These issues are just only a few of those problems encountered during the transfer of knowledge to one person to another. Crozier, H. (2018) explains that the importance of Open Educational Resource (OER) in reducing the educational cost since the facilitators and students who are into this program can choose the instructional tools and availability of the schedule they will meet for their session. Stoddart, P. (2015) notes that educational technology has issues in addressing the different needs of the educational system, however, through this technology involvement there are goals and implementations that has never been experienced way back in

**Corresponding author: Junry A. Eñego,
De La Salle ASMC, Department of Education (DepEd) and Cebu
Technological University - Main Campus, Philippines*

the old era such as technical projects and the application of new teaching strategies.

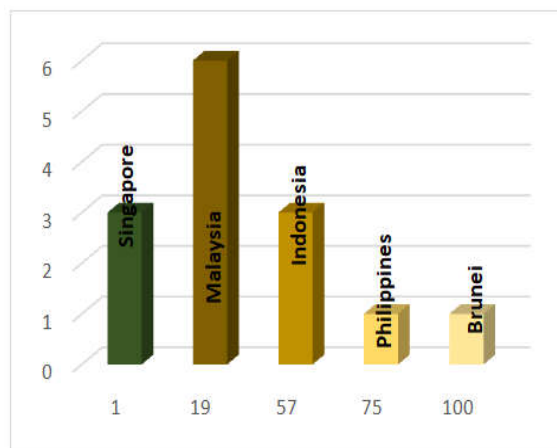
ASEAN and Open Education: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a premier organization across the eleven (11) countries within the jurisdiction of Southeast Asia. This enables economic growth, social progress, and cultural development of every country. Through this association, other nations can benchmark their best practices and shares the best culture to other neighboring countries. The members of ASEAN nations are collaborating for effective handling in different unique ways of addressing the common educational issues per country. On the other hand, the organization is more concerned with the formulation of better ways to the educational system for the prosperous and peaceful motivated community. While in the context of a broader perspective, open education for all is common to the Asian people since it was introduced properly by the government through governmental laws and regulations. Through this program, the ASEAN nations are encouraged in pursuing different types of education and achieving their dreams to finish their course at the basic and tertiary levels. As of now, out of eleven (11) countries that belongs to the Southeast Asia nations only ten (10) are the members of the association. These are the country of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam (The International Association of Universities, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

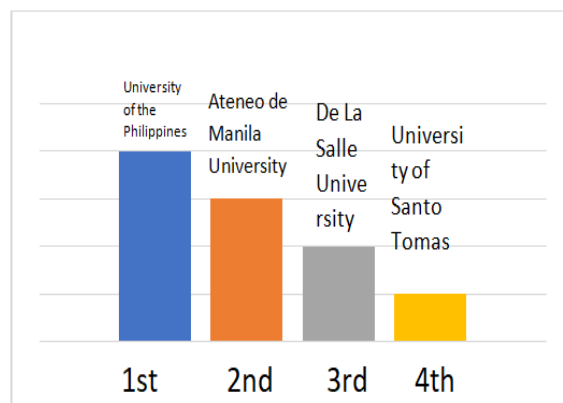
In the latest educational ranking across ASEAN through different higher learning universities of different nations during the year 2018 as presented by *rappler.com (2018)*, the result is in quite unsteady to other nations but not to Singapore who made in rank 1 and to Malaysia who garner the greatest number of schools that belongs to top 100. Indeed, Philippines made in rank 75. The result was manifested and respected by the association of ASEAN nations. Table 1 presents the ASEAN Ranking for the year 2018. For this year, only five (5) nations whose school/s made to top one hundred (100) out of the ten (10) nations participated in Southeast Asia. This table also posits the number of schools who made to the rank 100. On the other hand, Singapore has three (3) schools, Malaysia has six (6), Indonesia has three (3) schools, the Philippines has one (1) school, and Brunei has one (1).

Philippine Schools and Open Education: In the context of education in the Philippines, the government is still encouraging the citizens to continue their passion and interests towards study because of the importance of education, in some point, some government partners donated electronic devices e.g. mobile phones, laptops, desktops including internet connectivity to schools for the efficiency of the lesson despite the cost and issues that will come-out along the period of time. In this way, students have an impetus in improving their knowledge and skills within their span of interest. The technology transfer and assistance are evident to all aspects of the diverse educational systems in the country including the far-flung areas to cater to the different needs of the learners. Most government-owned universities offer open and distance education based on the experiential methods in adapting the new classroom practices and changing the patterns of the educational system since its goal is “Education for All”. However, due to the geographical location of the country, the

educational standards are affected due to contextualization and acculturation within the community-based development.



ASEAN Educational Ranking



Philippine Educational Ranking

Despite the problems encountered in the new open education, the government is up to discovering new solutions and still competing with other countries in Southeast Asia. Below is the list of Philippine schools that manages to top in the international standards who offered open and/or distance education. Acosta, M. (2016) states that education in the Philippines has its struggles in terms of delineation since the educational system is now shifting its paradigm and strategies to address the needs of the citizen of the country. Through new technology, there are new innovations that are considered for its impact especially the sharing of ideas to one person to another yet in the case of technology integration this brings the over-all significance of changes and full implementation of e-education and e-learning in the Philippines. Table 2 presents the ranking of schools in the Philippines that manages to the top in the international standards. Rank one (1) is the University of the Philippines, rank two (2) is the Ateneo de Manila University, rank three (3) is De La Salle University, and rank four (4) is University of Santo Tomas.

Ally, M. et al. (2013) explains the importance of technical assistance in the education that will address the different common problems in the field of education especially in accessing various lessons anywhere that the students will go. In their study, during the self-assessment to students on what media they frequently used during their class discussions, 84 percent said that they used the search engine, 6 percent said

that they used their email, and 1 percent said that they used the library resource for their class lessons (Saw and Todd, 2007).

Conclusion

The Open Education (OE) and Distance Learning (DL) is a modernize strategy of the schools in today's millennium. This is the new way of transferring knowledge in other formats of communication. By that, OE and DL address the level of interest of the students and made the schools connect to the students who wanted to educate themselves despite the challenges e.g. distance, time, and barrier they encounter. Though this way of education is quite expensive for now because of the new educational platforms which are to communicate both parties into one space-time for the various means. At some point, the technology carries a part of the educational system which is to connect the two (2) persons into one interface to learn through new methods. Through the aid of technology, many diversities will resolve like unlocking the subject's difficulties and advance studying since the student can multi-task because of the resources they have but then as technologies are evolving, the problems are also improving by its nature since it was not properly addressed during that period. Nevertheless, technology is not a hindrance to educate the self it is the interest of the student to learn more despite the challenges they are facing.

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