



Train for Jobs, Linking Education to Market Demands

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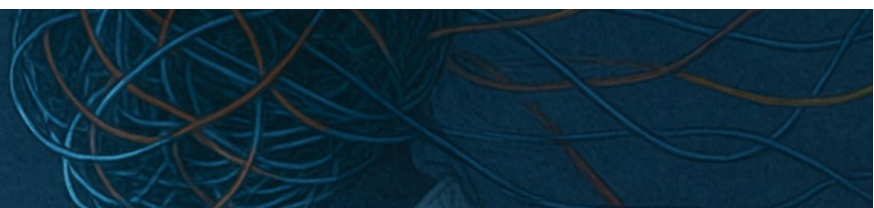
Every year, thousands of young Filipinos earn their diplomas, but many find themselves unsure of how to turn their education into a job that pays the bills. There is a gap between what they learn in school and what employers expect, a gap that leaves too many graduates stuck in underemployment or unemployment. This reality is a call to rethink how we connect the classroom to the workplace, so that students are not just trained for tests, but trained for real work.

The significance of aligning education with market demands can't be overstated. Across the Philippines, industries like manufacturing, construction, and healthcare are desperate for skilled workers, yet students graduate without the experience or training needed to fill these roles (Ebdane, 2024). Schools often focus heavily on theories and outdated textbooks, while employers need workers who can handle the tools, technology, and real-world challenges. Without bridging this gap, the promise of education falls flat.

This mismatch is even more evident in provinces where job opportunities are limited. Many students leave their hometowns to find work in cities, only to discover that their college degrees do not match the needs of employers (De Castro & Evardone, 2018). Families spend everything they have to send their children to school, only to see them return home with no job in sight. Education should open doors, not leave families feeling that their sacrifices were wasted.

To address this problem, schools and industries must talk to each other. Students need training that goes beyond classrooms, with hands-on experience and technical skills that meet the needs of businesses today (Chau et al., 2023). Schools should partner with companies to offer apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and curriculum updates that match what's actually happening in the market (De Castro et al., 2019). Integrating digital readiness and emerging technologies, especially in teacher education, is also essential in preparing students for future demands (Lacuna, 2025).

Filipino culture values education deeply, but it is time to look at what education really delivers. No parent dreams of seeing their child's diploma gather dust. Young people deserve an education that translates into real opportunities. It's time to stop seeing job-readiness as an afterthought and start treating it as the promise of education itself. Let every classroom be a place not just of learning, but of preparation for the real world. Let schools and industries work together to make sure every student graduates with the skills they need to succeed.



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