

An Assessment of TESDA Scholarship Programs

Postscript

The DBM-PIDS study on the assessment of TESDA Scholarship Programs in line with the zero-based budgeting approach (ZBB) provided useful findings and recommendations towards improving the implementation and outcomes of the scholarship programs.

While most of the findings are generally valid, it must be emphasized, however, that these results and conclusions are drawn based on the limited, and in some cases, incomplete data sets and information available during the study period. The authors of the study have duly acknowledged the data and information constraints. It is in this light that the utilization of the results of the study has to be cross-referenced with more up-to-date statistics and studies / researches that have been made available recently, as well as the measures introduced to improve the management and implementation of the scholarship programs.

One important consideration is the 2011 Impact Evaluation Study (IES) of TVET Programs which was completed in October 2011. This study showed different findings on the comparative analysis of the TWSP and PESFA scholarship programs as against the 2008 IES which was used in the DBM-PIDS study.

Based on the 2011 IES results, 61.5% of the TWSP scholar-graduates in the labor force are employed at the time of the survey. This is higher than the employment rate of PESFA scholars which is registered at 52.4% and for the total TVET graduates employment rate of 60.9%. This indicates improvement in the employment rates (based on graduates in the labor force) of TWSP scholar-graduates compared to the results of 2008 IES, from 60.0% to 61.5%. For PESFA, however, there is a marked decline in employment rate from 64.8% in 2008 to 52.4% in 2011.

The same is true for assessment and certification which showed an increase in terms of percentage of takers as against total graduates for both PESFA and TWSP. From 51.3% for PESFA and 50.1% for TWSP in 2008, these increased in the 2011 IES to 68.9 and 70.3%, respectively. Higher certification rates were also registered for PESFA and TWSP from 77.9% and 80.5% in 2008, respectively to 88.8% and 87.5% in 2011.

It is also important to highlight the measures introduced by TESDA recently as part of continual improvement of program management and implementation. These include the following:

- Prioritizing the industry and skills covered in the scholarship programs focusing on technical education and skills development programs that are supportive of the seven sectoral winners and key employment generators identified by DOLE, including the five area-based, sector- focused and employment generation identified by DBM (Agri-fisheries; BPO/Creative industries; Tourism; General infrastructure; and electronics and Semi-conductor.
- Targeting beneficiaries and giving priority to the unemployed, including those from families qualifying for the CCT; of employable age (18); and setting the educational attainment based on industry requirements.
- Qualifying the participating TVET institutions based on their program offerings and compliance to the performance metrics of 55% employment rate and 84% certification rate.
- Institutionalizing functional career guidance and referral services in the TVET institutions to facilitate tracking of graduates.
- Enhancing the role of industry and private employers through partnership agreements, particularly in the following areas:
 - identifying critical skills requirements;
 - selection of training providers and scholars;
 - establishing and maintaining training development fund for their respective sectors; and
 - direct involvement in the monitoring of the program, including the employment of graduates.
- Strengthening of monitoring and reporting system with the introduction of the Unique Learner Identifier (TWSP-ULI), TWSP learner tracking forms and TWSP graduate tracer survey forms, in addition to the regular administrative reports being submitted by the field offices.

As the study concluded, “the role of TVET in the overall economy is well recognized”. This is particularly true in providing skills to the labor force that will enable them to become productive and employable. Thus, government support to improve relevance, access and equity in TVET needs to be continued.

TESDA, as the authority in TVET in the country, remains committed in ensuring that the necessary measures for efficient and effective scholarship programs are implemented.