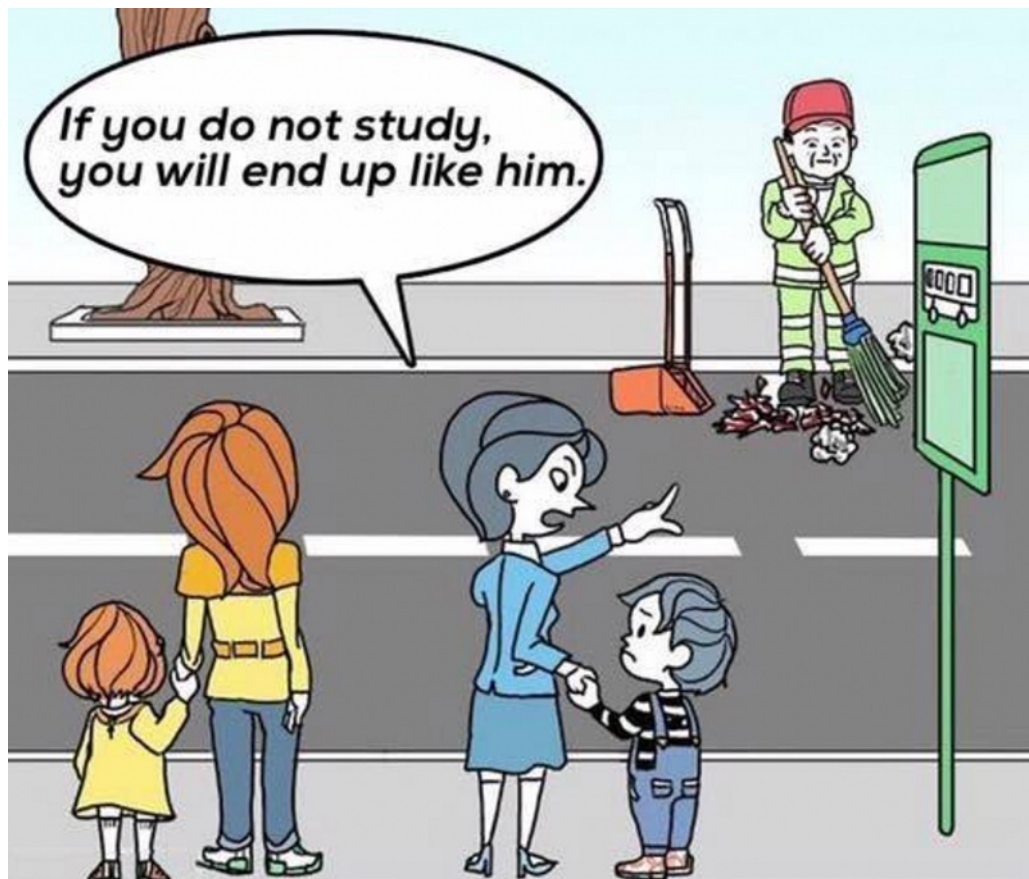


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# Breaking the Cycle: The Importance of Supporting Local Industries in the Philippines

## Challenging the Narrative of Success Through Work Abroad

As a child, I remember wanting to be a malicious hacker when I grew up. I was fascinated by the idea of being able to manipulate and control technology, and I spent hours reading about hacking techniques and practicing on my own computer. However, the first thing I was told when I mentioned my aspirations was that I would “do great in the USA.” This message, along with the low salary grade in the Philippines and the narrative that studying abroad was the key to success, seemed to push me towards the idea that the only way for me to achieve financial stability and be successful was by leaving the country.



This narrative is not unique to my own experience, as it is common for Filipino children to be encouraged to study hard and pursue work abroad in order to achieve a better life financially. In fact, there is even a dedicated industry for Filipinos working abroad, known as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), who contribute significantly to the country's GDP through remittances. However, while OFWs are often revered as economic heroes, it is important to recognize and support the growth of

local industries in order to break free from the mindset that success can only be achieved through work abroad.

As I grew older and learned more about the job market in the Philippines, I began to realize that there were many opportunities for success within the country, especially in the technology and medical sectors. While I ultimately decided not to pursue a career in hacking, I learned the value of considering all of my options and not limiting myself to one path.

By [Carl Kho](#) on [December 26, 2022](#).

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Exported from [Medium](#) on October 31, 2025.