“NEW NORMAL” IN EDUCATION; A TEACHER’S EFFORT

by:

Ryann Ramos Singian, EdD
Master Teacher I, Dinalupihan Elementary School

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact not only on businesses or the economy of the country but also on the education system, leading to the total closure of schools at all levels.

School plays a vital role in the development of all aspects of each individual. It is the place where characteristics, behavior, skills, and abilities are being squeezed to contribute to the development of the nation.

But the question here is, what if the school is no longer able to operate or accept school learners? Is education still going to happen? Can teachers provide quality education? Is it possible to engage learners in an educational process? Do lockdowns in response to COVID-19 interrupt the equal opportunity?

The answers are in the hands of our educators, our teachers. Although every human being from our frontlines or health workers to ordinary civilians is affected by a pandemic, our teachers wear a full set of gear to continually serve the nation by adapting to changes in the education system. The fact that teachers are not just masters of educational standards and classroom rules, but the roles of teachers at the heart of this epidemic are very valuable and helpful.

Self-learning modules, digital lessons, and offline and online workbooks are some of the highlights of teachers' efforts to respond to the call of a new normal education system. Teachers have innovated and crafted these materials to ensure that they deliver
quality education among their learners even in the midst of a pandemic. They also keep their learners motivated and interested to cope with new setups and changes.

Another thing, as we embrace the new standard of education, is that teachers have also been trained to design assessment and grading systems based on purpose and priorities, leading to a shift from traditional classroom instruction to home-based instruction that allows learners to be accountable for their own learning.

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has also had a severe impact on higher education as universities closed their premises and countries shut their borders in response to lockdown measures. Although higher education institutions were quick to replace face-to-face lectures with online learning, these closures affected learning and examinations. Perhaps most importantly, the crisis raises questions about the value offered by a university education which includes networking and social opportunities as well as educational content. To remain relevant, universities will need to reinvent their learning environments so that digitalization expands and complements student-teacher and other relationships.

Thus, we cannot deny that education, through the efforts of teachers to embrace the so-called "new normal," will continue despite the pandemic that hinders our path towards the goal of providing quality education.

References:
