A YEAR OF A NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

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March 16, 2019, a day that the public was advised to stay at home, at first, we thought it just for that day, feeling of excitement as if it is just a holiday, we have time to clean our house, we have time for gardening and other household chores.

But days passed, days became weeks and weeks became months, it is not normal anymore, no public transportation, malls, and fast foods are closed, and strict checkpoints everywhere. We now longing for freedom, when can we go to work, when will be the time that everything will be back to normal. Boredom, fear, and anxieties start to linger in our minds.

Corona Virus Disease (COVID19) paralyzed the economy of the world. It has taken a toll on the lives of many. Schools are not allowed momentarily to hold classes onsite to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the learners, teachers, and school personnel. However, education is vital to success. Then, I go with the battle cry of the Department of Education that “learning must continue”.

How can education be continued amidst this pandemic? What are the programs and projects that DepEd has implemented? These are the typical questions that parents, and learners have in their minds when education is in the issue.

It has been a year now ...and yes, education continued. Because of this pandemic, the Department of Education has shifted the learning delivery modalities from typical face-to-face to distance learning, homeschooling, and blended learning such as modular, online, and television/radio-based instruction. Self-Learning Modules (SLMs) can be in
print or digital form where the learner’s progress is supervised by the teachers using email, text/instant messages, and/or phone calls. The collective efforts that the DepEd has set to ensure that all learners have access to quality basic education for SY 2020-2021 make it possible.

Also, let us count the benefits this pandemic brought about. Under the new teaching-learning modes, parents play a big role in the education of their children at home. In this period of a pandemic the parent’s role is crucial, thus, the school partnerships with parents or guardians shall be strengthened. Series of capacity building and orientations for parents and guardians to prepare them for their new role/responsibilities in the new teaching-learning process. Local government units (LGU) support in these undertakings, especially in the provision of funding and resources, is needed. This means more bonding time for parents and children. A harmonious relationship between the community and the school was established. Likewise, LGU’s support was very much visible. Understanding, mutual support, unity, and Bayanihan is a must in this period of COVID-19 pandemic.

Let us all look up to its brighter side, let us all be united for one battle cry “Education must continue”.

References:

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