ABSENTEEISM AT THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC

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Good Morning Class! Today we will have another topic to discuss, but first, let’s check the attendance. Abuan?
Present.
Aboganda? – Absent Sir.
Acuzar? – Absent.
Acosta? – Absent Sir.

Why does Aboganda, Acuzar and Acosta are not here at our Zoom meeting?
– They live far from the city Sir they say they can’t find any signal from their house.

This an example conversation of a usual online class of a teacher in the new normal in Education. Students living in remote areas weren’t able to attend the online classes due to cellular or internet signal on their place. This is also a common problem of every teacher in conducting online classes. In addition to that, there are also students who skip classes because they are working to provide for the needs of their families and for their studies as well. Others are just absent because they don’t want to sit and listen to an hour lecture about the lesson which they can not process just by listening. Some students were just nowhere to be found and unable to contact.

In the light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the existing problem of absenteeism was roughly increasing among elementary, high school, and senior high school students. A number of cases of student’s absenteeism are around the challenges of reaching students.
remotely. They lacked reliable internet connections or digital devices at home. Taking student’s attendance is also more challenging in remote learning environments.

According to the survey, absenteeism rates are higher for schools and districts that have stuck with full-time remote learning. In fact, absenteeism rates appear to have nearly doubled before the pandemic across the board, regardless of whether remote learning is in place or not (Lieberman, 2020).

Fortunately, teachers are also offering blended learning in which students will receive printed materials or modules to accomplish. Students who are living in remote areas and who are working were given privilege to consider their attendance records due to acceptable reasons. In addition to that, they are not obliged to attend online classes and submit online outputs because of their situation. They just need to answer all of the given materials and complete the weekly tasks provided by the subject teacher. The output they will pass also serves as their record of attendance and be considered present. Proper coordination of teachers with parents or guardians is an important part to monitor and guide the students in complying outputs. Incapable of meeting the requirements and finishing the tasks can affect the student’s performance and records.

Teachers are open-minded and take into consideration of the various situations the learners are experiencing. They are always reminded that students have individual differences and life status. The schools were also advised not to put punitive manners but rather encourage students to seize the opportunities in learning.

It is a difficult time for both teachers and learners to maintain the quality of education. But if there are cooperation and unity of both parties along with the parents or guardians, the problem with absenteeism and other educational concerns will be resolved smoothly and appropriately.
References: