AT LEAST WE HAVE EXPLORED OTHER POSSIBILITIES

by:
Eden D. Vinas
Teacher II Jose V. Abejar Memorial Elementary School SDO Abucay Annex

For the longest time, our educational system has been focused on face-to-face learning delivery, where teaching and learning were confined within the four corners of the classroom. The teaching and learning process had been more of a one-side track where learners listened while teachers taught.

In such years, teachers had been more of the messengers of concepts, theories, and facts while the learners were mere recipients of everything they were being taught.

However, in the recent years, our educational system has been somehow revolutionized upon the emergence of other delivery modalities like home-schooling – which was more like - for the rich and famous; alternative delivery mode which was more popular in areas struck by natural or man-made calamities where regular schooling could be next to impossible; the Alternative Learning System (ALS) for out-of-school youth and adult learners; and the Open High School recently introduced in secondary schools.

Such modalities among others have been implemented all over the Philippines but have not gained as much popularity.

These days, though, just when we are all distressed and stressed due to the threats of the COVID 19 virus which have already taken the lives of thousands and have already infected hundred thousands of people all over the world, people have been made more aware of the existence of the alternative learning delivery modalities.

And why was that?
This is because face-to-face learning is nowhere possible and feasible. Many areas in the Philippines are still placed under different classifications of quarantine, the most workforce is on alternative work arrangement, economic status has declined, many businesses are in a recession and there is nowhere safe to be and to go.

Despite this, the Department of Education continues to advocate the continuance of education, though subject to all the health and safety protocols implemented by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) and the Department of Health (DOH) together with all the other agencies and departments responsible for keeping the health and safety of the citizens – our learners and DepEd personnel included.

With these New Normal developments, more alternative delivery modalities have been researched and studied. Eventually, five (5) learning deliveries have been conceptualized to be most effective for this Pandemic School Year. Such delivery modes are modular print, online learning, blended learning, radio-based, and TV-based learning. These modalities will complement and supplement learning while face-to-face instruction is still not safe and possible.

As we look into the silver lining of the pandemic relative to education, it seems that education leaders and implementors have already explored other possibilities to make learning continue even outside the physical environment of the classrooms and the schools. Learning has become more flexible in order to cater to the needs, situation, and accessibility of the learners. Now, learners have options and together with their parents and guardians who will become learning facilitators, they can now choose the mode of learning that will best fit their capacity and capability amidst the pandemic.

Yes, we may still be suffering from fear and discomfort under the New Normal, but at least, we have explored other possibilities in life, especially in Education.
References:

DO No. 018, s. 2020

Policy Guidelines for the Provision of Learning Resources in the Implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan