COVID-19 pandemic has drastically revolutionized the way of living in this day and age. Adapting to the "new normal" was never an easy route to walk through. There were doubts and confusions, uncertainties on what's about to happen and so much more. The world stopped for a moment when the distress of lockdown was encountered. The majority of establishments and businesses suffered along the way. Unfortunately, in this case, the field of education is not an exemption especially when the constant spread of the virus remains a concern.

According to UNESCO, approximately one billion youth and students have been affected by the pandemic and at least 165 countries have closed their schools. It is unequivocal that education is fundamental and of utmost importance. With this in mind, investing in good quality education should be the main priority of every leader in society. Hence, amidst Covid-19, where the closure of schools and the suspension of face-to-face learning becomes a problem, this is when Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will come into play to make sure education is still accessible to everyone.

A remote system of learning requires skills and earnest preparation. For this reason, educational institutions all around the world are relying upon online learning platforms to continue implementing an excellent quality education system. The new normal transformed the concept of education with digital learning as a necessity. If such matter had not been put in motion, there would be greater turmoil in global education. Without learning resources including video conferencing applications such as Zoom, Google meet, Google classroom, e-mail, PDFs, podcasts, and social media, teachers, and students would suffer from the challenges of the distance learning process.
Thus, COVID-19 proves that ICT is a vital component of pedagogy in this generation. It allows everyone to distribute knowledge more flexibly. Other than that, ICT impacts economic growth by broadening the reach of technologies. It can improve the quality of human life because it can be used in many ways such as a learning and education media, in promoting ideas, campaigning issues, it dispenses information in the health and social area. ICT has truly become an integral part of everyone's daily life.

The objective of ICT is to connect the gap between educators and students by developing a valid, cooperative, and efficient online learning experience for all. In addition to that, teachers can become more methodical educators for they need to use their creative juices to make learning fun and engaging. Teachers can apply images, videos and graphics while delivering lessons to make teaching more interesting.

By the same token, ICT enhances the modes of communication by bringing students together where they can talk and discuss. This can help them with language development and interaction. Not to mention that it motivates learning in as much as the fascination with technology encourages students to learn and take part in learning methods. This can lead to knowledge retention which is pretty important in the learning process.

Equally important, this pivotal moment in promoting access to education requires an increase in technology awareness, digital literacy, and access to internet connection and technological devices so students and teachers can be able to succeed in their learning. Although online education has its perks like allowing students to attend classes from any location of their choice, disadvantages can also occur. For an instance, inability to focus on screens, lack of consistent internet connection, and sense of isolation are some to name a few. Nonetheless, these difficulties can be overcome with strategies to provide broader access to skills and competencies, the internet, technology, and more.
No matter how we perceive its importance, there is no denying that ICT is of the essence and that it is here to stay. A world without ICT is a world unimaginable. The dream of a connected life is what people strive for and ICT plays a vital role when it comes to that. It should not be taken for granted for ICT saves the world in the thick of dramatic dilemma brought by the pandemic. Not only did it make communication possible, but it also laid the groundwork for effective education.

References:

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