BRAVING THE CHALLENGES OF NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

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Amidst this pandemic lies a great challenge; inculcating knowledge to our learners.

The sudden outbreak of Corona Virus, otherwise known as COVID-19 brought massive changes in the lives of people around the globe. It greatly affected many aspects of our lives—, including EDUCATION.

The rise of cases around the world prompted many countries to declare lockdown. In the Philippines, it underwent many stages of community quarantine. The President, His Excellency, Rodrigo Duterte declared recently that as much as possible, NO FACE TO FACE classes must be implemented, until a valid vaccine is discovered.

This resulted to a greater challenge in our education system. How can we teach our learners in the middle of this pandemic? With this, Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) came up with programs and activities to aid teachers and learners alike.

The rise of webinars-

Since the teachers and learning facilitators cannot attend face-to-face learning conferences, “webinar” was introduced. Webinar is coined from ‘web’ (worldwide web) and seminar. This virtual conferences enable the teachers to learn and attend seminar, in their homes. Maximizing the power of Google meet, Webex, Zoom, teachers were able to attend meetings and seminars without the fear being infected by the virus.

Utilizing Online Classes
Online tutorial has been a trend for quite sometime now. Before, online classes were usually done when either the learner or the tutor doesn’t have the luxury of time, or in most cases, are in different areas around the world. With the pandemic outbreak, education sector took full advantage of this area of learning. With the use of Google classroom, Zoom, and other internet platforms, regular classes can now be administered.

Capitalizing on Module making

Since some of our learners do not have sufficient internet connection, DepEd and CHED came up with another strategy-modular approach. DepEd produced modules which cater the needs of the learners of our learners. These modules were derived from Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELC). The modules were printed are now being distributed nationwide. DepEd also empowered a platform entitled DepEd Commons where learners can access learning materials.

4. Government and Non-government assistance

Some local government units (LGU) extended their help through distributing gadgets and education materials to both teachers and learners. Some mayors recently issued laptop and gadgets to the learners. Others gave out pre-paid wifi modems.

These are all done to appease the demands of the new normal education system.

5. Parent-Teacher partnership

Now that teachers will not be able to conduct classes for the time-being, parents’ and guardians’ assistance is highly appreciated. Parents will be of great help to the learning process. Since the learners need assistance, parents can aid their children in understanding the lesson, since the teachers will not be able help learners physically.

Education in the new normal is really challenging. We may find obstacles along the way. This pandemic, however, shouldn’t stop us from promoting quality education.
Embracing the new normal is not easy at first. We, however, need to be optimistic to achieve quality education, amidst this big challenge.

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