CHANGES THAT HAPPENED AT HOME DURING THIS PANDEMIC IN RELATION TO CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

by:
Jeremy Mina Flores
Teacher-I Bonifacio Camacho National High School, Senior High School, SDO-Annex Abucay

Heraclitus once said, "the only constant in life is change," and so our lives did change when this COVID-19 Pandemic hit globally. The COVID-19 Pandemic affected the whole economy, especially the education sector. Most of us are still not used to this kind of "new normal" where almost all children worldwide need to stay home and continue their education at home.

We know that families across the country are adapting to the inevitable changes in our life brought about by this pandemic. As the government and school leaders plan to return to school following the global pandemic, it is still very crucial, especially to children, to be protected from the threat of local transmission of the virus. Over the past year since the lockdown last March 16, 2020, both educators and the government have been continuously developing plans to adapt to using the potential of educational technology. Some universities in the country have been using different distance learning modalities for their students even before this pandemic, so it is not surprising that distance learning modalities have mixed reviews. As government begins to loosen up quarantine orders and considers opening the country, school officials are now struggling with what a school year would look like when face-to-face is eventually allowed.

While online learning has gone well for other students, there are still numerous families left behind, especially those who belong to the underprivileged. It is a challenge not just for schools and the government but also for low-income families to gear their children up for online learning.
For parents, the difficulties become multifold if their children are in basic education, specifically in kindergarten to third grade. They need to prepare them to attend online classes, complete their homework, and assess their skills. Keeping healthy routines have also become a burden to parents. For parents who have children in high school or college, the goal is to keep an eye on them as they tend to procrastinate more with their school tasks. One of the impacts caused by this pandemic is that those students who are being supervised and guided strictly with their schoolwork by their teachers become more independent in their learning since they stay at home.

Parents are also teachers by profession. The government and the school administrator should not forget that although they are merely professionals, they still need to adjust to this situation by enhancing their digital skills. In adapting to distance learning based on any digital software or any document-sharing platforms, parents need to develop skills in digital literacy.

This pandemic has indeed cultivated a situation that the government should seize every opportunity for education to become flexible and adaptable. The presence of COVID-19 will surely leave a direct impact and a permanent change in the educational system. Only time can test the validity and reliability of distant learning modalities as a substitute for traditional learning approach.

References: