China is one of the richest countries in Southeast Asia. It’s stability and advancement to nearby countries even worldwide was tested when a virus fire up in Wuhan City. On December 31, 2019, twenty-seven pneumonia cases were reported of unknown etiology, with common reported link to Wuhan Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. The Wuhan Health Commission had a further investigation and confirmed that a person with a novel virus showed symptoms such as fever, dry cough, dyspnea, difficulty of breathing or shortness of breath and chest pain.

World Health Organization (WHO) named the novel virus as 2019-NCOV and identified as belonging to the coronavirus family, which includes SARS and common colds. The Chinese experts considered that the virus is a human to human transmission. When the cases in China toll high, World Health Organization (WHO) declared global health emergency. Within a few days, cases were confirmed in India, Philippines, Russia, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, Unites States of America, and Vietnam.

The virus reached the Philippines on January 30, 2020 when the first case of the disease was confirmed in Metro Manila. On February 2, 2020 the Philippines reported the first death outside the China, the victim being a Chinese man from Wuhan. After over a month, the Department of Health confirmed its first transmission on March 7, 2020. Since then, the virus spread the country with at least one case being recorded in country’s region.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte announced a community quarantine on March 12 due to COVID 19 outbreak and would be implemented in Metro Manila and other provinces. The decision of the Philippine government to save its nation was a hard
hit to its economy, mobility and education. Almost of the Filipinos had lost their source of income and some had a hard time to embrace the so called “new normal”.

The Department of Education believes the importance of schooling to build a better nation. Education enriches the brains with new and valuable information for the people to think, analyze and process to embrace new perspectives, ideas, beliefs and cultures. As Chuck Grassley quoted “What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades in school, but a different way of looking at the world and learning”. Thus, Education Secretary Leonor Briones has been set the opening of classes for the school year 2020-2021 on August 24 as stated on Republic Act No. 7797 “The school year shall start on the first Monday of June but not later than the last day of August”. She told that opening of classes must be held in any forms.

Parents, pupils and some of the politicians are against the decision of the Education Secretary Leonor Briones since that there is no vaccine for COVID 19. As the opening of classes come nearer parents are not comfortable in sending their children in school. So with the combine efforts of the teachers and other educational staffs they are introducing the new normal in education system in the Philippines.

Department of Education had an online training for the teachers in preparation for virtual, online and modular learnings. Since the government prohibited mass gatherings and observe social distancing, DepED conducted remote enrollment wherein teachers called their former pupils to enroll on their next grade level. It was a great challenge to all teachers to communicate with the parents of their former pupils since teachers strictly follow the Act of 2001, the first national law “No child left behind”. The DepEd reached out the Local Government Unit and put kiosk on public places for the enrollment form of pupils that were not listed on remote enrollment.

The national government allotted budget for the modules to be delivered on the pupils’ house with the help of LGU. Department of Education will have an exclusive
educational broadcast on television and radio. They will also upload some videos on youtube as one of the practices on distance learning. If the area has a low risk of pandemic, they could have a blended learning wherein pupils will have a schedule on a face-to-face learning in school.

Corona Virus tested the unity, effort and ability of the states on how to deal with its impact. Though the Philippines needs to improve its educational system based on the result of the survey by International Institute for Management Development (IMD) , educators have a faith on learners in improving their study habits. It is a new practices among the pupils for having a parent-child learning sessions, their siblings as their peer group and their house as their learning area but they must open their mind to accept the new situation caused by the virus.

In this time of pandemic, the Department of Education not only with the help of the national, and local government but also with the family of the pupils will fight against ignorance.
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