COVIDIFICATION OF EDUCATION

by:
Jerry V. Destura
Administrative Assistant II, Mariveles National High School – Camaya Campus

A lot of us get terrified especially when we hear the word “LOCKDOWN”. Leaders were extremely challenged on how they are going to surpass this pandemic. CoVid19 has been a life changer indeed regardless of anyone’s economic status.

Students and workers who are studying/working afar from their family were locked on their compounds. Front liners especially the medical front liners who are now considered as our national treasures especially the doctors are being discriminated. LOCKDOWN! Children wonder why they cannot wander. No one is allowed to just wander around with no really significant purpose. Essentials were the only ones allowed. Economy is suffering while the health is highly at risk. New normal is being applied. No facemask, no face shield, you cannot go to the market. Going to the market is now a privilege. We learn to live at simplest as we can. Some rued for not saving their resources.

The first case of COVID19 here in the Philippines was confirmed on the first month of the year 2020, in a 38-year-old woman who arrived from Wuhan. First week of February, first death outside the pandemic zone (China) was recorded. In effect, students and families were shocked that there will be no traditional commencement exercises that will be held as it is one of the most awaited moment of their lives to reap the fruit of their labors. March, April, May, June, July has passed by with the mixed emotions of overcoming this outbreak. Despite the advancement of Science and Technology, there is still no definite and widely approved vaccine as it really takes a long time for the vaccine to be proven safe and effective depending on each unique case.
Normally, June is one of the busiest months here in the Philippines as it is the class opening here in our country. But because of this pandemic, everything has changed. Explicitly, teachers and other stakeholders were the only ones to be considered having the efforts and sacrifices to continue the education for all amidst pandemic. We are all in this, from the utility staffs, school guards, clerks, administrative officers/assistants, head teachers, principals, parents and the whole community who are all collaboratively working to carry on the continuous learning of our students. Be it online, modular, radio, TV, synchronous or asynchronous, everyone is tirelessly exerting their efforts.

We cannot deny the fact that parents and/or guardians feel pressured as they are the one in-charge to teach and/or facilitate their children’s education. Education was indeed covidified. Student’s learning majority depends on their eagerness to learn. Motivation is so intrinsic. No flag ceremony at the school’s hall every morning. No strict schedule to follow. Student’s cannot reason out that they forgot their assignment at home because they are now learning from home. No chitchatting with classmates while teacher is discussing. No bulk of students in the canteen every recess time. No “baon” and “fare fee or service” needed every day. No outdoor activities especially during P.E. class. No need to clean the class room because their new class room is their home. No need to really wear uniforms because they can wear their comfortable clothes at home. Some parents are now working from home while guiding their children with their education.

For the schools administrators and staffs, instead of improving the school, fixing broken chairs and other facilities, they are now more focus on producing the modules, laptops, tablets, and phones, and providing face masks, face shields, alcohol, alcohol dispenser, thermal scanner, and all the necessaries that they can provide.

According to the Department of Health, as of third week of August, Philippines has 53,665 active cases, 112,861 recovered, and 2,687 died, with a total CoVid cases of 169,213. A sorrowful event for each of us especially to the bereaved ones who does not
even have the chance to see their loved ones even on their last moments here on earth. Our lives have dramatically changed.

COVID19 pandemic, for most of us, this is definitely a tragic occurrence in the history. But looking how the skies get bluer, fewer cars are crashing, less noise, less pollution, crime is falling, and some infectious disease are fading, while we are suffering, mother earth is indeed healing. For some stake holders of education, this covidification of education is an opportunity. Amidst this pandemic, many are still optimistic to proceed with the opening of class. The new modes of learning which we are not able to use before like the online learning and modular learning and others were given the opportunity to be utilized to proceed with the continuous learning process. Perhaps this is a hindrance, perhaps this an opportunity. One thing is sure, a lesson learned (must be really learned) for each and every one that life is more important than any other things.

Teachers were challenged on what strategy and techniques to be implemented in this school year 2020-2021. In line with this, administrators and staffs were also challenged on how they are going to provide the new necessities of education. Attending webinars is one way to equip ourselves for the new normal. Everyone is ardently adjusting to cope up with the new needs of our learners. We are all in this. We will transcend amidst this pandemic with the unity of all citizens thru the help or our Almighty God.

References:

https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV
https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1785