DELIVERING EDUCATION THROUGH DEPED COMMONS

by:
Manilyn M. Molina
Teacher II Dinalupihan Elementary School

“Though the country is facing an unprecedented situation, we in DepEd are focused to fulfill our primary mandate of instilling quality basic education to our Filipino learners. We are eager to push boundaries and explore new paths so that education can still continue at the confines of our homes,” - Education Secretary Leonor Briones.

This is why the Department of Education (DepEd) is providing an online educational delivery platform designed as an alternative mode of teaching-learning during class suspensions, community quarantine and similar circumstances through the DepEd Commons.

DepEd Commons contains online review materials and Open Educational Resources (OER) authored by public school teachers who are subject matter experts. Teachers can retain, reuse, revisit, title track, and redistribute the content through an educational management system to provide a modality for distance study.

It is an online platform for teachers of the public schools to support modalities of distance learning. It was designed as a direct solution to provide access to online review materials and Open Educational Resources (OERs) during class suspensions and other similar circumstances.

The platform also includes the eLibrary, an online library featuring age-appropriate and interactive e-books, ranging from children's and young adults' storybooks to core subjects such as Math, Science, English, Filipino, Music, Arts, among others. These interactive apps help develop children's literacy, numeracy, and higher-order thinking skills.
Even in this time of crisis, when most of us have to stay at home, including teachers and students, it's necessary to continue learning.

Although it's unfortunate that many of our schools still don't have internet connectivity and access, we have to walk before we run in that extraordinary situation. We have to start somewhere and work our way towards the ideal where all the country's teachers and learners can access those resources. Education must continue even in times of crisis, whether it is a catastrophe, a disaster, an emergency, a quarantine or even a war.

In contrast, while home school and online learning are among the solutions proposed, access to technology and the internet remains a challenge, especially in remote areas. It is not uncommon for students to lack internet connection at home in the public education system, or be unable to "load" their phones regularly. Some don't even have telephones or computers. Since this is a reality faced by many schools, students, and communities, the DepEd suggests a combination of different learning modalities and will use the Blended Learning approach.

References:

https://www.deped.gov.ph/2020/04/21/deped-taps-telco-partners-for-free-access-to-deped-commons/