DISTANCE LEARNING: A NEW NORM FOR PHILIPPINE EDUCATION

by:
Marc Ernest A. Javier
Teacher II, J.C Payumo Jr. Memorial High School

The Department of Education was one of the most affected sectors when Covid-19 pandemic struck. The traditional education systems collapsed and became one of the government’s early casualties. But this did not hinder the agency as its head, Secretary Leonor Briones, in her speech said that “Education must continue.”

The department crafted its basic education learning continuity plan as early as April 2020 and other necessary preparations were made to ensure the safe reopening of the school year. After consultations with various stakeholders and with the permission of President Duterte, the start of the school year was eventually pushed through in October 2020 under the Distance Learning Modality where teacher and learners are geographically remote from each other during instructions. This modality is what the so-called a new norm for Philippine Education. Under this modality, five modes of learning were offered namely: Modular Distance Learning (MDL), Online Distance Learning (ODL), TV Based Instruction, Radio Based Instruction and Blended Learning.

During the opening of classes, Secretary Leonor Briones declared victory, citing the months of preparation that enabled the transition to distance learning. However, not everyone concurred with the declaration. Critics pointed out that millions of students opted out of this school year’s enrollment due to the virus. The majority of those who did not enroll were in private schools, where only approximately half of last year’s four million students returned. DepEd, however, was not discouraged. Following the guidelines of the Inter Agency Task Force or IATF, schools ensured the safety of its clienteles and stakeholders. Teachers and parents continue doing their shared...
responsibilities for their children and students. Pandemic was not a hinder to continue their education.

Nobody knows when this Covid 19 pandemic ceases. No one can tell when are we going to have our normal situations back but the Department of Education with its vision and mission for every Filipino learner and with the help of the government, the parents and other stakeholders, will continue to serve and embrace the hardships of Distance Learning, the new norm for Philippine Education.

References:


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