DISTANCE LEARNING: STRATEGIES IN TEACHING SOCIAL STUDIES EFFECTIVELY

by:

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Distance learning is very new to most of the educators in the Philippines considering that the modality of classroom instruction has been in the traditional way since then. Due to the surge in cases of infection, classes were decided to be in the alternative approach: mostly under online or modular. Modular learning has been the choice of those in public schools while online delivery of instruction became the option for private institutions. Since delivering Social Studies lessons may require creativity and further elaboration of details especially those very important contexts such as the application of economical balance and the like, strategies that are out of the box could really help. Here are some of the most beneficial ways to deliver the lessons effectively despite miles of distances.

While this is only applicable for online platforms since interactions are restricted, remote group learning could actually develop integrated learning among students through applications designed for online discussions, Turner (2020) suggested. Through having a group discussion and brainstorming, important lessons requiring further elaboration could be understood without the need for consultation to the teacher. This is very applicable for lessons which are context-based and are explained in stuffy texts such as history of wars and the like. Through group discussion, joiners could share what they know about the topic and will definitely inherit some more from others.

After the online approach comes a strategy for modular learning. Adding some materials to the module such as flyers or brochures with creative illustrations and mind maps would increase the understanding of the learners. Aside from such references, text-based
situational questions challenging how the learners could immerse themselves in the lesson is also a good way to develop critical thinking among them. Questions about leadership, teamwork, decision-making and the like will surely boost how they want to be integrated in the future society as leaders, entrepreneurs, and prime movers. Inclusions of links and sites for video presentations and visuals which may enhance their understanding and application of the knowledge gained is also a must since integrating theory to practice is a significant part of effective delivery of instruction (Burns, 2016).

Moreover, surveying what fits the most to your students will be one of the most crucial strategies since this tactic will help you gain insights on what to do, what materials to develop, and what approaches to utilize. Take for example quizzes in history, it has to be made sure that the approach is suitable for everyone's current condition and available resources. Online-based tests may not be transformed simply into texts since there may be differences in instruction and application. It has to always come into prime consideration to balance the availability of resources of the students in order to not overwhelm them (Mitchell, 2020).

There are hundreds and more strategies which an educator could resort to in order to deliver social studies instructions and lessons well. The pandemic might have limited the resources and the interactions among students and teachers however, it did not restrict creativity and collaborative learning. Be it online or modular, the goal is too develop future leaders who are in deep comprehension about what the past had taught them, what the present condition is trying to make them realize, and what the future holds for them. Through advancing the thinking for educational strategies, the challenges brought by this crisis will not be felt at all.

References:
