DISTANCE LEARNING AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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As Covid-19 pandemic changes the way we live, traditional classrooms and face-to-face learning will not be possible nowadays. Schools over our country shifted to distance learning.

What is distance learning?

It is a learning method where in learners do not need to attend their lectures, teachers and pupils are separated geographically, there is no interaction between students, and little face-to-face interaction between students and their teachers. In this set up, students may get their learning materials thru e-mail or internet. Students’ learnings may also be assessed in the form of written exams, performance tasks or portfolios. Students can even ask for support thru e-mail, telephone, messenger, or any messaging applications used by their teachers.

Some people have an understandable confusion that distance learning and online learning are the same. Distance learning is also known as “traditional” self-study course; teachers can mail learning materials and resources to their students, or require the parents to get these learning materials like the modules from their respective class advisers in the school or apply any platforms. Students must complete their learning task based on the schedules assigned. Even students and teachers can use internet as a medium to receive and submit learning tasks, still they do not interact via online lectures or online forums.

On the contrary, online learning uses internet as an avenue for education; there is a physical distance between students and teachers, but they can still interact during online forums and virtual lectures, and other online assessments. Classes are scheduled at a
specific time, so students need to be online to attend these virtual lectures. In addition to that, students can also discuss lectures and ask questions to their teachers, they can also interact with fellow students via online platforms.

Distance learning is in need now to prevent the widespread of corona virus. Health precautions should be given emphasis. In our country, online learning is not feasible for everybody since some students do not have access to devices and internet.

Here are some advantages of having distance learning in our education system:

- Flexible
- Saves time
- Cheaper
- Self-paced

Distance learning is a must now, not just only for comfort, adapting to work hours or just having the freedom to study from anywhere. Since we are facing coronavirus pandemic, as people are having to stay at home, it has become more important than ever.

References:


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