DISTANCE LEARNING AS THE NEW LEARNING MODE

by:
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Earlier this year, the Department of Education (DepEd) stated that collective effort in creating modules for blended learning is needed from the teachers. This is due to the cancellation of physical classes because of pandemic. The Philippine educational system has no other choice but to adopt distance learning as its new setup.

Modular distance learning is one of the platform to deliver learning by most of public schools in their implementation of distance learning.

Before any discussion of distance learning, we need to look at the way the term has been defined in the past and how it is currently defined in the literature. The term can be used to describe any of a number of instructional situations.

Distance learning is not a new term. Correspondence courses in Europe were one of earlier forms of distance learning. This continued as the primary means of distance learning until the popularity of instructional radio and television during the middle of the century (Imel, 1996).

As technology has progressed so is the definition of distance learning. Videotape lectures, audiotapes and lessons through the mail have been utilized thereafter. Presently, the compressed video and the internet have taken distance learning in different new directions; thus, making distance learning occur in real time. Live video instruction is the fastest and most popular growing delivery mode in the United States. (Ostendorf, 1997). However, live video instruction is also a mode of distance learning here in the Philippines.
Distance learning is not an easy process. It has been proven to be challenging especially in terms of source allocation and distance of students’ residences to schools. Yet there are strategies to ensure that distance learning can be successful.

Lindsay Mitchell from Edutopia, an educational website and online resource for teachers, provides some ways on how to effectively ensure the implementation of distance learning.

One of the ways she suggested is through being authentic. Being authentic as an educator simply means employing the teaching approaches that bring you joy. Teaching does not always mean incorporating other teachers’ strategies especially if those do not suit your personality. Students will feel at ease when they see that their teachers are enjoying the process too.

She also suggested that teachers should be familiar. Sometimes, we tend to try all the resources we have, especially now that the Internet is free. However, students are struggling, too, with the changes so it is important that we take our time in trying to experiment and select the assessment or activities that we will use.

Being organized also helps a lot. Instruction that is clearly outlined for students saves time and energy. Students will appreciate infographics, summary of notes, and flowcharts that reduce cognitive load.

In the same vein, educators should also be concise. Since we are implementing distance learning, it is important that students clearly understand our lessons, instructions, and messages. This is not the time where we spend an hour trying to discuss a single point. It is essential that we say things clear. Giving clear instructions will also help home facilitators or guardians assist students in the learning process.

These are just some of the strategies we can employ as we travel in this world of distance learning. We may be facing rigged path with difficulties and struggles, however
our goal and commitment to help students reach their potential is more important than the pains.

References:


https://www.edutopia.org/article/6-strategies-successful-distance-learning
