E-LEARNING: DIVERSION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

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The occurrence of the covid-19 pandemic forced countries to deal with stopping the operations of commercial establishments and industries during the first three (3) months of lockdown to ensure the safeties of their constitution. People close doors away from the physical interactions of other people. Schools are reflectively affected by the pandemic. And so, faculty and staff must have set adjustments to reach out to the students at their comfort.

For the first few months, schools had to shut down as soon as the covid –19 viruses kicked in. Stopping the school operations has been done faster from those first infected places. The academic year had to finish as soon as possible when it was just midterms on their 2nd semester that time. In regards to school operations, there were different stands upraise; whether to continue the student learning in their homes or to let the pandemic pass through before the school runs once more.

In the end, the Department of Education pursuit homeschooling set up, and online learning is another diverted option for this setup. As DepEd Undersecretary Nepomuceno Malauan said from the interview of Rappler, "DepEd Commons" is an online education platform developed by a government agency to support alternative learning.

Many people speculated that the fast shift to online learning with lack of training and insufficient preparations leads to poorly skilled users as stated by Li and Lalani (2020). However, some see that as this e-learning emerges, significant benefits will come
to everyone. One of their interviews stated that e-learning setup eventually becomes accelerated and recognizes as integral component of school education.

Here is a peek at what is e-learning. The Digital Class blog states that E-Learning is the process of sharing knowledge through various channels such as e-books, CDs, webinars, and more. E-learning setup is available in either of the two (2): synchronous learning and asynchronous learning. Synchronous is communication between the provider to the receiver happens directly as in chat rooms or video-audio conferencing. On the other hand, asynchronous - is the information passed through forums, emails, wikis, pdf, etc.

The benefits of e-Learning in education are: quick delivery of modules, online learning can accommodate everyone's need, it promotes self-paced learning process, and lastly, classes can happen from any place. It has also benefits for the students. They have the advantage of getting the learning material and study it anytime and anywhere. Learning time is reduced cause of the quick delivery of modules upon convenience and flexibility. All the resources for the students and teachers are available in one place. Save time, money, paperless, and reduced transportation cost. E-Learning is cost-effective compared to traditional learning.

Several students are without reliable internet access or technology students struggle in participating in e-learning. Distinctively, on a survey two (2) years ago, there are 45% of Filipino citizens (46 million) and 74% (34,500) of public schools do not have access to the internet (Jones, 2019). But even with printed modules alone, students still need access to the internet for searching towards their assignment. According to Santos (2020), there are seldom students who still need the internet to do searching for more complex assigned works. Considering a DepEd survey showing 6.5 million students who can access the internet estimated 20 percent of them use computer shops or other public places to go online. What is worse is that there are 2.8 million students that have no means or ways of going online at all. The survey shows Filipino families lack to provide for their
daughters and sons for e-learning setup because they have more important things to prioritize.

E-learning offers more comfort and advantage for the students, unlike in printed modules that are supposed to be brought back to the school after answering them. They even have to buy paper, pen, pencil, erasers, and notebooks every time they lack stocks. They can expose themselves or guardians outside often plus a transportation cost every time they get to school.

Online platforms are also a big help to the other teachers through uploading videos or online meetings for the students who chose printed modules due to the hard lessons. A situation like that has added students need internet access to join, learn and access a video. While e-learning, it is not always a need to have an online meet because the modules given are online and downloadable. We can see the advantages of e-learning more than printed modules set up. On the other hand, unlikely circumstances happen such as no stable internet connection, no gadgets available, and the internet speed and strength. Shortcomings for e-learning can easily find a solution.

This article is not to start arguments against the printed module but rather to understand the help can deliver by the e-learning setup. The diversion for e-learning can be a great help for reaching the students' need of learning. And a way for the teachers to deliver lessons as best as possible.
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