EDUCATION AMIDST COVID-19 HEALTH PANDEMIC

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The COVID-19 pandemic has caused boundless problems to the educational areas where schools are forced to stop from operating. As for the background of the virus, crowded places are being avoided and the best way to avoid being infected from it is to stay safe at home. This is the sole reason why the Department of Education has implemented an alternate way to educate the learners. Distance learning is one of the learning modalities that educators came up with to sustain the education of the students. Teachers are encouraged to innovate their teaching practices, attend webinars and be resourceful to improve teaching-learning process in time of pandemic.

Even before the onset of COVID-19, education in the Philippines is already declining. It started on the year 2003, where the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) recounted that the country placed 34th in secondary Math among 38 countries and out of 46 countries, the Philippines ranked 43rd in secondary Science. Then in 2010, statistics based from National Achievement Test being given on high school students, the passing rate is only 46.38%. This means that the students in the country are performing tremendously low in international surveys.

In addition to that, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) channelled the Program for International Students Assessment (PISA) in 2018 to study the students’ performance in reading, science and math among 79 countries. It turned out that Filipino students acquired the lowest mean score in reading comprehension. Then second to the last in Science and Math, where they scored 357 in Science and 353 in Math which is below the 489 point average in the two said subjects. This problem occurred in the presence of the teachers inside the classroom, how much
more now that teachers are also at home and doing distance teaching to their students. Parents need to guide their children in home schooling and the same time earn money for the needs of the family.

However, educational sectors are still seeking of the best possible way to give quality education to the students. Supports such as financial and gadgets were given to the family but unfortunately there are still hindrance for distance learning or online learning. Internet signals are not accessible to some remote areas and other families are too poor to purchase even a basic cellular phone.

For the meantime, administrators, teachers and parents must work together for the welfare and education of the students.

References: