EDUCATION IN THE NEW NORMAL

by:
Goeil A. Bernas
Teacher III, Limay National High School

Education paves the way of developing learners’ skills and narrowing students’ knowledge in all aspects of learning. This is an important role that the education holds for many years that helps future professionals adapt with the needs of society. The goal to continue education despite of the pressure brought by Covid - 19 pandemic becomes the major issue in the education sector. Problems continue to arise in meeting the needs of learners, teachers, administration, and learning institutions without compromising the safety and welfare of all concern individuals. Safety measures were imposed in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. Fear and doubts begun to boil as the DepEd announced the schedule of opening of classes and came to the final decision to continue the school year but with strict compliance.

This pandemic brings so much toil to all learners and teachers as to how teaching-learning process be executed which is expected to be different from the traditional face-to-face classes. The teachers work hard to purposely adapt with the new normal. Varied online trainings and seminars were introduced through series of webinars to enhance teachers’ skills in utilizing the use of technology and social media platforms as a response to the present needs. In preparation to the new normal classes, teachers experience difficulties to quickly learn the improved technology in bringing the learning in an online platform. This caused some teachers to feel exhausted attending series of online programs and adapting the new way of teaching. Moreover, the demand to learn interactive teaching and assessment costs time and money that denies teachers to see other options. The challenges never stop teachers to perform their duties. As a response to the high demand to learn the current trends of teaching, teachers and administration work
together to equip educators with new skills. The adaptation of technological advancement is surprisingly supported the online classes.

To sustain the needs of all learners to continue the education despite of the current pandemic, the Department of Education presents the different learning modalities that can be adapted by different schools appropriate to the capabilities of the learners in general. The imposition of the different modalities is to promote consensus between the learners and institutions to meet the good result of teaching and learning program. The following are the learning delivery modalities that could help classes possible in time of pandemic.

Learning Delivery Modalities

1. Distance Learning

This learning delivery modality takes place when the teacher and the learners are geographically remote from each as teaching-learning program is in concern. This learning delivery modality has three types which are as follow: Modular Distance Learning (MDL), Online Distance Learning (ODL), and TV/Radio-Based Instruction.

2. Modular Distance Learning

This learning delivery modality follows the individualized instruction in which learners use the self-learning modules (SLMs) either in print or in digital format/electronic copy. The materials could be in a form of Learner’s Materials, textbooks, activity sheets, study guides and other study materials. Learners have chances to access electronic copies of learning materials in which technology is introduced: computer, tablet PC, or smartphone. Aside from that, CDs, DVDs, USB storage and computer-based applications can deliver e-learning materials that the students could work on. The teachers are responsible to monitor the learners’ progress. The teachers must also be updated with the use of other platforms for the learners may ask a help via
e-mail, telephone, text message, and other instant messaging. Other teachers conduct home visits to learners who are in need of remedial instruction and other assistance. Stakeholder in the community could serve as para-teachers to meet the needs of learners for this modality.

3. Blended Learning

This learning delivery modality is a combination of face-to-face with any or a mix of online distance learning, modular distance learning, and TV/Radio-based Instruction. Blended learning helps the schools to limit face-to-face classes, to properly follow social distancing, and minimize the number of people outside home. The implementation of this modality requires more teacher’s and learner’s learning materials.

4. Homeschooling

This is also known as Alternative Delivery Mode (ADM) which provides learners an access to quality basic education in a form of home-based environment that is being conducted and supported by qualified parents, guardians or tutors who undergone related trainings and seminars as a response to the needs of learners. It also brings the family members to work together to meet the requirements for this modality.

Reference: