EDUCATION IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

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At the start of year 2020, the whole world hurdled a massive problem – the Covid 19 pandemic. The Philippines was not spared from the crisis this illness has brought. For months the whole country was put into lock down. In this scenario, education has been put into compromise. The regular school activities and programs were suddenly put to a halt. Students, parents, teachers and other school personnel can’t go to school due to the threat of the disease and restrictions of community quarantine protocols.

With this situation at hand, the Department of Education announced that the pandemic will not halter the continuity of the education cycle of the country. Education will continue even at times of crisis. This announcement met a large volume of questions, protests and confusions. Majority of the masses believed that education during quarantine can only be facilitated through online. With the use of gadgets and internet connections, education can be carried out. But one big concern that the Filipino people had to deal with is that only a minority have access to internet and even a lesser group have equipment to support this. There have been numerous social media posts, comments and even rants that circulated questioning the feasibility of opening the school year by 2020.

This concern is valid but incomplete. DepEd clarified that online learning is only one of its platforms in providing education to the youth. Other than online learning, the bureau is also in the process of developing printed modules to be delivered to the students who have no access to the internet. The department also said that other than printed modules and online learning programs, they are also tapping the National
Telecommunications Commission and other television networks and radio stations to air learning sessions. This will provide the students with the opportunity to study even if they can not go to school. Physical face to face interaction between the student and the teacher will not be allowed as per advice of the president. This will put both the teacher and the student at risk of contracting the deadly virus. Thus, learning will have to be delivered remotely.

Parents on that matter have to take part in ensuring that their children still learn even at home. Teachers can be contacted thru various means and ways to provide clarifications and further details if ever that the student finds it difficult to study at home.

Truly education is a valuable asset that can not be set aside. Though times are compromising but education must persevere. This is because education can provide an assurance that the country can continue to strive and recover with any crisis to come.

References: