EDUCATION SURVIVAL IN THE MIDST OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC

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Global pandemic has affected many countries around the world as the corona virus disease-19 (COVID-19) that was originated from Wuhan, China infected millions of people. The quick spread of virus forces companies, establishments, institutions and other businesses to shut down in order to combat the widespread of virus and to at least ease the fatality rate. This causes the economy to crash down as millions of people lose their jobs due to pandemic. Even the first-world countries are struggling to regain economic loss and it is seen that it will be a long run to bring everything back to normal.

Aside from economic sectors, one of the major concerns is the educational challenges brought by the pandemic’s impact on education. To date, there is still a debate on whether the school year should open this year or to wait first until the vaccine will be available. According to UNESCO monitoring, 191 countries have implemented nationwide closures and 5 have implemented local closures, impacting about 98.4 percent of the world’s student population. In order not to hamper learning amid pandemic crisis, the Department of Education recommends the use of distance learning programs and open educational applications and platforms that schools and teachers can use to reach learners.

According to Mustafa (2020), lack of access to technology or fast, reliable internet access can prevent students in rural areas and from disadvantaged families. Lack of access to technology or good internet connectivity is an obstacle to continued learning, especially for students from disadvantaged families. In the Philippines, this is also the major concern of the students and parents, which causes for a stronger call for the
postponement of the school year. However, Burgess and Sieversten (2020) stated that going to school is the best public policy tool available to raise skills. While school time can be fun and can raise social skills and social awareness, from an economic point of view the primary point of being in school is that it increases a child’s ability. Even a relatively short time in school does this; even a relatively short period of missed school will have consequences for skill growth.

Education must be viewed the same way, or even higher, to economic entities that need to operate and coexist. The DepEd has means to not consider face-to-face that is why no learners should be at school. We do not single out the sentiments of parents on child’s safety that is why we have distance education which is not new in education. Truly, education must survive the value of our cherished and perennial tradition of knowledge search and quality. We have various modes of learning and thus education is still important to traverse through the challenge of pandemic, it just needs to be refined so that all of us must continue teaching and learning.

References: