EDUCATION UNDER THE NEW NORMAL

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“Education must continue even in times of crisis whether it maybe a calamity, disaster, emergency, quarantine or even war” -Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones

The last school year 2020-2021 post the greatest challenge among the educators and the students as well because of the COVID 19 pandemic. All the traditional and what we are very much used to had become less significant. Seminars and trainings that we had painstakingly undergone had to be refigured to adopt to what we call now “New Normal”. No one is prepared for these yet as Deped Secretary, Leonor Magtolis Briones had said, “Education must continue.

Coping with the challenges for the new normal were like taking baby steps for everyone. Expert curriculum developers came up with the fastest solution of breaking down the curriculum and choosing the “Most Essential Learning Competencies” (MELCS) to limit the contents. Modules were created based on the newly formulated “MELCS” to augment these curriculum changes. Different education delivery modalities were considered and surveys were immediately disseminated to grasp the need of the learners. Ventures for online learning, radio broadcasting and other forms of media were explored to cover all possibilities. Lesson plans were replaced by Learning Activity Sheets that contain written and performance tasks that comprise the competencies to be measured from the learners.

Most students opted for printed modular mode supplemented by periodic online discussion utilizing social media as medium. Students then were obligated to study on
their own with parent’s performing the role of home facilitators and the local government unit as the school’s social arm due to restrictions enforced because of the pandemic.

Last school year is less than perfect. Teachers and students shared the feeling that there is more that education can offer if there is face to face learning. But facing with the uncertainty of what is yet to come, steadfastly we hold to what the Department of Education adheres, against all odds’ “Education must continue”.

References:

DepEd Order No. 032, s. 2020
DepEd prepares Self-Learning Modules for education’s new normal | Department of Education
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