EDUCATIONAL SURVIVAL AMIDST GLOBAL PANDEMIC  
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While it is understandable that health must be the top priority, what is being overlooked is that lack of graduates would create a crisis in the needed professionals in different field. Also, teachers, most especially from private schools, will tend to look for other jobs to sustain the needs of their family, which can cause brain drain as they leave the academe to purse other profession. To avoid such, the Department of Education prepares for the ‘new normal’ in education amid COVID-19 situation.

The integration of ICT in the teaching and learning language prepare the learners in their future careers wherein they can be technologically and globally competitive which enable them to have a significant contribution to the society. Carrier, et.al. (2017), in looking at the affordances of technology, he lists different categories of digital technology: (a) input technologies (e.g., interactive whiteboards, projectors, virtual reality headsets), (b) interactive technologies (e.g., online quizzes, videoconferencing), and (c) portable technologies (e.g., tablets, voting devices, and head-mounted displays). These interactive ICT tools using different platforms can enrich the second language acquisition of the students.

However, the great challenge here is to think of ways on how to enable students who are not capable of online classes to still learn. In the proposed alternative mode of teaching of Deped, since there will be no face-to-face interactions, printed materials will be distributed to barangays in order to reach out those who cannot afford online classes. To assure learning, the materials should be scrutinized and must be interactive enough for the students so that they can still enjoy studying even without the present of the teacher.
Printed materials can include activities using word puzzle, unscrambling letters, colorful photographs or illustrations, written works that are connected to their experiences, and providing readings from which they can relate. In terms of activities that require performance, there must be instructions of enjoyable activities that are feasible to be done at home. Involving family members in the activities can also be one of the strategies in order for the students to be more encouraged to learn.

It is challenge for all the teachers to make students learn amidst global pandemic because as the opening of classes in August is approaching, sacrifices of teachers are becoming more visible. There will be a big adjustment in the educational system, and the lack of access of many students with gadgets and Internet connection posed another great challenge. Hence, the use of modules and other printed materials will be the weapon of the students who cannot afford online class and alternative modes of teaching and learning were given by DepEd. As the Department pushes through learning despite the on-going pandemic, it just proves that learning never stops and there will always be a way to learn.

References:
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