EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN THE LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Technological innovation in the past 100 years has made the lives of people around the world easier. In this day and age, it is a must for people to have basic to intermediate computer literacy. It goes the same for schools, which are investing on the latest devices and software that can aid in student learning. Some schools are even promoting the latest technology they acquired in order for them to increase their enrollment rates. In the enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program, the Philippine Department of Education has identified information, media and technology skills as one of the skills required to produce a “holistically developed Filipino”.

The COVID-19 pandemic has inadvertently triggered what some call the largest remote learning experiment. As its effects ram through everyone’s way of living, technology is throwing a lifeline to the deeply-affected education sector. With face-to-face classes and extracurricular activities halted as the pandemic runs its course, technology has paved the way for educators to continue content delivery to their students in real time despite limitations on connectivity and the number of activities that can be done. Many schools have been forced to utilize available online tools and applications as school facilities were closed down. Students have also shifted from the traditional way of studying and learning to go fully online and made adjustments along the way. Global education app downloads in March 2020 increased by 90% compared to the weekly average of the fourth quarter of 2019. While everyone is waiting for these facilities to reopen, it is critical for everyone to tap the advantages being offered by current technological innovations and products for the benefit of continuing education amid the challenging times.
Educational technology has been around for quite some time. From posters to videos to LCD projectors and laptops, the technology students and teachers has evolved rapidly. This can support students, especially those in the remote areas of the country during this challenging time. The pandemic has also provided an opportunity for upskilling and continuous learning for our teachers, especially on their technology skills. It is now imperative for teachers to be able to know how to use the technology that will be used to their students properly. Many tools have been developed to support teaching and learning. Examples include learning management system, tools to create online assessments and the creation of web-based games to produce creative projects for students and teachers.

The importance of educational technology has never been highlighted prior to the imposition of community quarantine and localized lockdowns across the country. It is now imperative to integrate technology into the way lessons are being delivered.

References:


