FACE TO FACE CLASSES IN JANUARY?

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The year 2020 has brought many things to this world, from tragic deaths, to volcanic eruptions, to this rampaging pandemic, 2020 seems to have brought a decade’s worth of downers to us. It is hard to imagine that it has already been ten months; yes you read that right, since this pandemic struck us. It hit us from out of nowhere, and here we are right now, still reeling from its effects. Two months to go, and it is 2021. Weird, right?

With this being said, a lot of things are affected, one of which is the education sector. It has halted the traditional way that students learn and teachers teach. It has put a halt to what was the “normal” in which students study inside classrooms, having active interaction with a teacher. Because of health restrictions, schools have been in a hiatus since March, and to this point, still has a cloud of uncertainty regarding the time when everything will return to normal. The big question is, will it really be the same?

The Department of Education has implemented alternative ways on how to teach. There are certain methods given depending on the capabilities and resources of each of the respective provinces in our country. It is a way to show that education must continue no matter what, and that a pandemic will never stop the education that every Filipino student deserves.

Here in the province of Bataan, modular learning approach was implemented. It is where the students were given learning modules to answer at home, with the help and guidance of their parents or guardians. With this, many have been raising their eyebrows and giving their opinions. What will the teachers do if the parents will be the one to facilitate the learning at home? They should give the parents the salaries of the teachers since they will be the ones teaching their own children. These were just some of the things
that parents say with regards to the modular approach. But then again, teachers were doing their hardest behind the scenes, to make sure that the learners will receive their modules.

With that in mind, some parents want to stop the modular approach and go back to the traditional face to face classroom setting. It may sound ridiculous, maybe before when the cases were really up there, but right now, it seems to be a plausible thing to do. With the cases slightly dropping, and the lockdowns being eased up a bit, is it really time to go back to the traditional classroom setting?

If we look at the data, at least here in the Province of Bataan, the latest update according to Governor Abet Garcia, a total of 2,903 cases were tallied in the province, with four (4) new cases. A total of 2,708 recoveries, with twenty-three new ones, and 59 deaths in total to wrap up the report from Gov. Abet’s Facebook Page. With this, can we really go back to the traditional face to face classroom set-up?

To be honest, we are still too far from what we want to achieve, and that is zero new cases, but we are certainly in the right track. It is still too early to decide, but we will certainly get there. The thing is, there should be guidelines, protocols, and strict measures to be implemented before we can safely go back to the face to face classroom interaction. Without a vaccine, the future is still a little murky, but with the slowly decreasing number of positive cases, we must not put ourselves at ease. We still need to put on our masks, our faceshields and observe minimum health standards at all times.

It is still too early to decide to go back to face to face classroom set-up. The virus is still there. It is still deadly, and it is still a threat no just to us, but to our loved ones. Let us put into ourselves that this pandemic is still here, it is still rampaging and it is still causing a lot of damage. Let us be mindful, be disciplined, and be aware of the things that we must do to make sure that COVID-19 will end. Because at the end of the day, our own safety, the safety of our family and those that we care about, lies in our own hands. Let
us put an end to this virus together, and look forward to that day when we can finally say that the Philippines is officially COVID-free.

References:

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