HEALTH RISKS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

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The world is facing a crisis that has affected many lives and most aspects of how we all operate. To date, there is no cure nor a vaccine to combat the virus that has spread wide and has caused the world to a halt.

One of the most affected sectors is education. In the Philippines, the Department of Education has come up with means to somehow cope up with the new normal. Blended learning will be offered come opening of classes. Education, being one vital need of children cannot be neglected.

Part of ensuring good education is to be able to provide good health measures to a young learner. This is one reason why the department has its own arm aimed to providing health care. This is the Health and Nutrition Section which some of the goals are to ensure decreased to zero malnourishment and provide good health practices among school children and personnel.

With the new scheme in the education system, how are school nurses equipped with still providing the best health care to the clientele in schools? Since the outbreak, school nurses continue to monitor cases of COVID among school children, personnel, and their families. This is in collaboration with the entire public health system to be able to immediately respond to the health needs of whoever might be affected by the virus.

At the beginning of the school year, the usual will not be the same again. The health and nutrition section do physical examination of children including dental check-up and assessing nutritional status. At this rate, this might not be possible since school children will be mostly learning online. This set up should be considered in adapting a
new scheme in providing quality health care among these young learners. The reason is that academic achievements are also anchored to the health of a child. Any health risks that could pose threats to learning well should be properly addressed and intervened.

One means is to provide health materials that can be given to the student and their families. This could be about proper nutrition, infection control such as hand washing techniques, and first aid knowledge, among others. It is still possible to provide online trainings to teachers, students, and their families about health and how to combat the risks of COVID 19 thru online portals. Psychological health is also important; thus, the roles of school nurses will not only be confined with physical health but with the emotional and psychological well-being of the clientele.

Identifying health risks as early as possible is crucial during this pandemic and should be given an appropriate response action program if we would help ensure that students achieve academically despite the new learning modalities.
References:

