HELPING STUDENTS COPE DURING THE PANDEMIC

by:
Jenilie N. Florendo
Master Teacher I, Mabato Elementary School

COVID 19 has greatly impacted the world today. All aspects on how life revolves and functions has changed so abruptly and humongous adaption was put on almost everyone’s shoulders.

One of the most affected was the education sector. School stopped its operations. With the fear of being infected by the COVID virus, everyone was confined to his/her own home. Months passed and no vaccine was found. Lives were lost. Number of infected individuals continue to rise. With the children and elderly being the most vulnerable, the Department of Education was left no choice but to postpone the opening of classes.

The preparations have been too tasking. The duty of preparing all the modules while ensuring that learning objectives are met, the materials to use, protective and safety equipment to protect against the virus, and the psychological health of all concerned have been a seemingly unsurmountable hurdle for the agency, management, personnel, the community, the learners, and their families.

The role of the teachers, as difficult as it is already, has been more jeopardized. However, because of the dedication to our roles, we continue to do the tasks assigned to us. The love for the children we were committed to teach is what kept us going through all these hurdles.

During the peak of the virus, UNESCO estimates that 19, 91.3% of learners around the planet are learning in an online portal. The data also shows that about 1.3 billion students from 194 countries stopped their school operations. One huge impact of the
online learning environment is the anxiety it gave the learners. They felt isolated and confused. They felt they have no control of their learning and the learning environment they got so used to.

The universal or core strength of the students must be founded, cared for, and enhanced. Know the strengths thru sharing sessions where learners can describe real life scenarios that they have experienced. Process the sharing and emphasize the strengths observed. Supporting or gearing students to focus on their strengths can boost their morale and confidence. This will help them to value their despite confusions, uncertainties, and disruptions.

References:
