HOW STUDENTS EMBRACED NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

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This pandemic has brought a lot of changes in our society globally. In the field of education, distance learning is the approach of the Department of Education (DepEd) to deal with this pandemic to ensure that quality education is delivered to students. Modular distance learning, especially the Self Learning Module (SLM) is now strictly being implemented in public schools. Distance learning is not a new concept, it is one of the Learning Delivery Modalities that has been a practice for some that are not able to go to formal school. In some private schools on the other hand, the implementation of blended learning, a mix of modular and online distance learning is observed. Whether modular distance learning or blended distance learning, are adopted in education today. Students may have different views about it. How student adjusts to this new normal education?

Shifting from the usual face-to-face learning modality to modular distance learning is not easy. The unexpected transition brought by the pandemic without enough information and opportunities to the new method is a great challenge for students. Most learners find it difficult to adapt at this new scheme. Their struggles in terms of how to study the SLM, for they are not used in a self-directed module. Whereas, in face-to-face learning, the teachers provided guidance and assistance to the students and the lessons are simplified for students’ level of understanding. Also, with peer interactions in the classroom more learning took place.
For some, this is an opportunity for more learning experience since it gives them a more controlled time to work on their modules and broaden their knowledge. Also, as they practice self-study, it is a chance to further explore topics which interest them the most, which later result to a stronger study skill.

Regardless the students’ embrace the new normal education with a positive or negative view, it is totally up to the parents on how to help their children embrace this with ease. Students have continuously immersed themselves in this new normal education. Little by little their negative views about it have been changed into an understanding of the importance this system would offer them. They have started to be more educated on how the program work. Thus, this program is a self-directed module, their time management is very essential in accomplishing it. The module is delivered to students in remote areas, in most places it is available at the school where they are located, and downloadable electronic copy of the materials is available. Teachers monitor students’ progress through “online kamustahan” via messenger, zoom and other online platforms. If possible, teacher can also do home visits to check on the students’ performance.

With the help of their parents learning in this new normal education becomes a time for quality activity to spend with. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for them to widen the range of their ability to learn, for this is a self-learning module, students’ potential to learn by themselves also is enhanced.

References:
