LEARNING FRONTLINERS IN PANDEMIC TIMES

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The Philippines has been challenged by the abrupt effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire country has been put into serious lockdown wherein people have been advised to take precautionary measures such as handwashing, social distancing, and wearing facemask and face shield to avoid the proliferation of the fatal disease. Various industries in the country have been put into closure including the education sector. As a result, a number of challenges have risen up in this sector because of the shutting down of schools and of the shifting of face-to-face learning to distance learning.

However, regardless of being in the state of emergency in these times, education should never stop. UNICEF (2020) emphasized that learning must continue although schools are currently shut down. The said organization believed that educating the youth is also one of the most essential responsibilities that one nation needs to offer to its citizens. With this imperative goal, teachers play a vital role in engaging their learners into various learning opportunities tailored to their needs.

Achieving such objective has never been easy to educators since students need to undergo remote learning. Even they are apart, teachers should consider the right use of technology to establish a better connection to students. They should also ensure that the most essential learning competencies are carefully unpacked and meaningfully learned by their students as going through their online and offline modules. Since these obligations require a rightful attention, they impose a tougher challenge to teachers.

Apparently, a lot of teachers are stepping out of their comfort zones most especially those who are not savvy when it comes to technology. They keep trying on
learning to manipulate certain digital learning platforms and computer software applications in order to teach their students. Some teachers are participating in online training courses in order to learn the new trends of education. Due to these things, they even spend their own money as deemed necessary.

Furthermore, teachers are also involved in the dissemination of information regarding the threats of COVID-19. They also help in conveying measures that avert the spread of the disease. Since this pandemic has also brought fears and anxieties to people, teachers also pave ways to deliver psychological interventions to pupils, parents, and other stakeholders in the community. They are also integrating these pieces of information to their lessons in certain learning areas such as Science and Health. They are also using social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to propagate information regarding the virus. With these endeavors, teachers are also deserving to be called frontliners.

Education is also considered as a need for life survival. Teachers have the crucial role in educating people and developing their awareness regarding events such as the current pandemic. After all, rising up to this occasion is our primary aim and we need the assistance of these so-called learning frontliners.

References:
