LEARNING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

by:
Jullie Anne E. Dela Rosa LPT

“The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice”. – Brian Herbert

Have you heard of the so-called new way of learning "online classes"? Do you think it will be effective? Are we ready for it?

It has been more than 6 months since SARS-COV2/novel corona virus is infecting not only our country, but the whole world. This pandemic created a big impact in every aspect of our daily lives. A lot of businesses and establishments were closed. A lot of people lose their jobs. Several companies offering basic services were forced to stop by this virus. One of the main aspects that this virus created a big impact is on the department of education. Last graduation season, a lot of graduating students didn't have a proper and formal commencement ceremony. Classes have been forced to end earlier than scheduled. Now the question is, how are we going to start the new academic year with this pandemic going on wherein everyone is advised to wear mask and to practice social distancing whenever you are in public places. School is considered a public place. And the one solution they are looking into is the concept of online classes. Online class is a kind of class wherein the students will attend the discussions/lectures of their teachers/professor through the use of desktop computers, laptops, tablets or cellphone, with the help of internet, via the application called Zoom or the likes. Online class has been used already. Have you heard of English online class, cooking online class and etc., these are examples of online classes that had been propagated for a time now.

There are a lot of factors that we need to consider in pushing through with this concept of having the classes online. First, does everyone can afford to have their own
computer, laptop, tablet or cellphone and a good internet connection; remember due to this pandemic a lot of people lose their jobs and their source of income so instead of buying new laptops, computers, or cellphones, they will just use their remaining money to buy food, water, personal protective equipment such as mask and face shield and to pay their monthly bills. Second is the internet connection, not all the places here in the Philippines are experiencing good internet connection. There are still places here wherein internet haven't discovered yet like in the far-flung areas. Next will be the method of teaching that will be utilized: it will be much harder now on how they present the lesson to the students. They should use methods that will make the students to focus their full attention to the discussion. It will need an extra effort and time from the side of the teachers. Lastly, it will depend on the eagerness/willingness of the student to learn: you need to consider that the students are staying at home, it means there can be a lot of distractions so the learning process will really rely on the hands of the learner. One should also take an extra effort and time to focus on the teachings. Even if you have a high-end laptop, an excellent internet connection, and your teacher is presenting the lesson in the best way possible, if you, the student is not willing to learn; this whole concept won't be effective and efficient.

Our national and local government are working hand in hand in able to utilize this way of teaching and learning successfully. They created already programs and projects that will address the needs of the students/teachers regarding this new norm called 'online classes'. We, as the citizens and part of this government, should do our part also even in the smallest way possible.

During this pandemic time, a lot has changed. New norms are being practiced. Online classes will be utilized. The effectiveness of this new norm of learning/teaching will be determined at the end this incoming school year and the vital part will be coming from the hand of the learners. I think we will not be fully ready for this new norm yet, it will take time.
Education is everyone's right so even this virus cannot stop us from learning. For everyone of us, education is very important because we know for the fact it will have a vital role in our life, in our future. Nothing can hinder an eager person to learn for he knows that it will be his key to the good life.

References: