MODULAR APPROACH: A YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC-HIT EDUCATION

by:
Bernadine Alynne C. Valdez

It has already been a year since the start of this pandemic, and almost a year into the new normal that we are currently living in. A lot has changed since this pandemic struck, and a lot can be said about the things that it has altered. And with the looks of things, we may still need to have a longer patience as this will not be ending soon.

It is almost a year since the modular approach was used in here in the province of Bataan as the primary learning modality, and a lot can be said about it, both positive and negative. It was our way to adapt to the rapid changes brought by this pandemic. Some says that it is effective, some say it is not, but one thing is for sure, it is something that really needs to be assessed to ensure that the students are learning and learning with the best of their abilities.

Before we go into things, let us first define what a module is. A module is a learning material with sets of lessons and activities that were anchored with the MELC or the MOST ESSENTIAL LEARNING COMPETENCIES. The students were given guided lessons and activities to accomplish in a given time. They will be put into different activities that will help them navigate through the lessons that were presented to them. With this, they will be learning it independently, without the collaborative activities that were present during the face to face modality before the pandemic. The students will answer it at home, with the guidance of their parents as their teachers. This ensures that the students will be doing the activities correctly and accurately.

With the modular approach, the students learn how to work on their respective modules independently, developing independence and self-learning abilities as they venture on
with their learning modules. They also develop patience and a sense of responsibility as they will be the ones to manage their time in answering the modules that were given to them. They also have the time to answer the activities and to thoroughly study the lessons that were given to them, plus they will also be able to go back to the lessons whenever they want to as long as they have their learning modules. These are just some of the good things that the modular approach presents.

Now to the cons of modular learning. First, students tend to lose interest since they will be subjected to reading a lot of things in their modules. We all know that learners tend to have a very short attention span, which means that they will easily lose interest in doing their modules. Another thing is that they will not be guided by their teachers in doing their modules. As we all know, the parents are the ones to guide the learners. The problem lies when the parents are not well equipped and not that good in guiding their learners, as a lot of parents did not attend school, so they cannot teach what they do not know. This will subject learners in doing activities without the proper guidance that a teacher can give. Another is that they will miss the collaborative part of learning. Most of them will answer the modules independently and will not have the chance to learn with other learners in school. This goes beyond learning the lesson at hand, as it also teaches students to learn values as well.

Having said all of that, the modular approach is still a great approach. It does the job it was given and still manages to give the learners the much-needed information and learning that they need. A lot can still be improved, though, and with the continuous use of the modular approach, much will be improved in the future, and as we face this ongoing pandemic, we just hope for the rapid improvements especially with the approaches that we are being given now.

References:

https://helplineph.com/opinion/disadvantages-of-modular-learning/
https://www.whatalife.ph/modular-distance-learning-heres-what-you-need-to-know/?fbclid=IwAR1DA8UPmpzlzA4PUqZPJAAHXyeRzFZEsnNd98VeLyZRpK1GFrLs1MjeCdgs
https://www.whatalife.ph/deped-distance-learning-heres-what-you-need-to-know/