MUTLI STAKEHOLDERS’ PERCEPTION TOWARDS MODULAR LEARNING IN THE NEW NORMAL

by:
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Coronavirus illness (COVID-19) was originally identified as pneumonia of unknown origin in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The causative agent of COVID-19 was later identified as a new coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2), by the International Committee on Virus Taxonomy (ICTV) (Zhu, et al., 2020). Because the COVID-19 outbreak is rapidly spreading throughout China and around the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) labeled it a global pandemic on March 12, 2020. More than 216 countries throughout the world have been affected by the virus's spread, which is still not completely contained. To combat the possibility of disease spreading, the government has taken a number of steps. Travel restrictions, forced travel quarantines, social distance, bans on public gatherings, school and university closures, company closures, self-isolation, requiring people to work from home, curfews, and lockdown are examples of these methods. Authorities in a number of countries have imposed a lockdown or curfew in order to slow the spread of the illness. These policies have a negative impact on business, education, health, and tourism in general.

The educational system is embracing the "New Challenges of Quality Education" as the globe embraces the "New Normal." Everyone should be educated, as desirable as that may be. However, this pandemic has provided so much for everyone. And the educational system in the Philippines is no exception. Many restrictions have been imposed by the government to control the spread of the virus as a result of the educational system of the country change from face-to-face education to a range of learning modalities such as online, modular, via the radio, and television, there is something for everyone.
COVID-19 had a global impact on the Philippines, and the country’s education sector faced significant challenges, including the abrupt implementation of a new education system. According to the most recent DepEd survey, 8.8 million parents choose modular learning, while 3.9 million prefer blended learning, which integrates several modalities such as module, television and radio, and radio with internet, 3.8 million parents chose online learning; 1.4 million parents chose educational television; 900,000 parents chose radio-based instruction; and other modalities were chosen by 900,000 parents.

As a result of a survey conducted on August 25, 2020, DepEd adopted and deployed a distance learning modalities in order to keep learning unhindered as the country fights the pandemic COVID-19. Distance learning is a type of learning delivery in which the teacher interacts with students who are geographically separated from one another during teaching. This means that lessons will be provided in a manner other than the typical face-to-face format. Parents would be required to participate actively in the learning process in a distance learning strategy. They'd be the ones to help and lead their kids through the modular lessons that would be given to students while they were performing remote learning.

Parents and students around the country have criticized and objected to the department’s decision to embrace distance learning, notably modular learning. Quarantine rules have impacted household finances; there is no access to the internet or computers, and learning is seen as a process only for those who can pay; and there is a question about the ability to provide the requisite resources to enable the learning system. However, the Department of Education stated that lack of access to technology will not be an issue because schools will supply students with printed modules. According to DepEd Undersecretary Nepomuceno Malaluan, a drop in enrolment is "inevitable" because some parents may be unable to encourage learning at home. He also stated that students will receive distance learning through three (3) techniques and “in the comfort and safety of their own homes.”: 1) direct delivery of modules to learners without internet access, and
pick-up of printed modules by parents on agreed-upon timetables at recognized locations. 2) Students who have access to the internet will use the DepEd Commons, a government-developed online education portal that supports alternative ways of learning. 3) Lessons will be provided via radio and television, with the government offering government-run television and radio stations as delivery platforms during the pandemic. Despite current circumstances, the DepEd aims to provide high-quality education.

References:
