NEW NORMAL IN EDUCATION: ACCEPTANCE AND ADAPTATION

by:

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In our country, Philippines, the first case of Covid-19 was reported last January 2020. Since then, the number of cases has soared high to more than 3,000. By that, the government implemented lockdown and quarantine measures. There were challenges in responding to this crisis including the shortage of health workers, facilities and even testing. With this, the new normal setting in every sector should be implement since it involves higher levels of health precautions.

Meanwhile, in the education sectors, we are beset by challenges on how learning and education is feasible amidst the Covid-19 crisis. Some schools and universities are scrambling to enable digital and technical infrastructures to support whatever form of virtual learning they most likely to adopt.

But, if we will just focus too much on technology as solution in the new normal education, let us still consider those who will be marginalized and underserved in the new normal. It is about reminding ourselves that digital and telecommunications infrastructure cannot even decently connect every device in the country to the internet. It is in the reality that not all students, parents and homes have access to devices at home and even lot of Filipino families will undoubtedly use their money to purchase smartphones or laptop instead of buying their essential needs like foods and medicines.

To address some possible issues and hesitations on digital learning alone, the Department of Education (DepEd) implemented online learning resources such as the DepEd Commons website, which already has 8 million users. Television and radio-based solutions are launched in areas with limited access to the Internet. In other word, to cope
in this pandemic, blended learning is in the spotlight again to typically deliver method of education which combines face-to-face learning with technology-powered online learning.

Despite the challenges, let us just consider this current situation as an opportunity for education providers to fully understand, accept, adapt and embrace modern best practices and new technologies, even if this meaning going out of the comfort zone.

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