NEW NORMAL SETTING OF EDUCATION CHALLENGES PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

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The Corona Virus Disease-19 (COVID-19) pandemic has been affecting different sectors such as business, agriculture, communication, transportation, and many more starting from its operation to the work force. In the field of education, principals, head teachers, teachers, and other school personnel are also suffering from the effect of this health crisis that resorted into the new normal setting. Learners are also experiencing troubles on how to continue learning despite trying times. However, there is one group of people that is challenged to handle the duties and responsibilities of a teacher, and that is the group of parents or guardians.

Probably, one positive result of pandemic is that parents have an ample time to be with their children through assisting them in reading the lessons in the modules and answering the activities provided. Yet, they are defied with some challenges.

The first challenge is how parents will teach their students, especially when they have more children who are studying. They are having difficulty on what strategies they will use so that the youngsters will easily understand the lesson given the time constraint. Studying in the distance learning is not only about opening the modules, reading the lessons, and then answering the activities but also about choosing the right strategy to understand the contents and apply these in real-life situations. These conditions made them realize that teachers are too patient to handle forty (40) to fifty (50) students in a day in the old normal, and despite that these kids have different learning needs, personalities, and learning styles teachers are able to handle the class with compassion.
The second dilemma of the parents would be time. Since they are also working, it is hard for them to guide their children in doing the tasks provided in the modules. They can’t focus on assisting their children because of some reasons, like they are having a bad day in their work and they are tired due to heavy task. Sometimes, parents forget to check if their kids are executing the performance task that is required to do and if they are following the right steps. These are only some of the challenges that the parents or guardians are facing that is connected to time. Now, they have an additional task to do, and that is to guide and help their children learn in the new normal.

The third challenge that is confronting parents or guardians is that they are struggling to carry out discipline. Parents realized that pandemic tested their patience too. Most parents thought that the discipline they do to their children at home is the same as the training when it comes to learning. That is the problem, because doing household chores and studying are two different tasks. Both activities need special attention and focus because it happens on the same venue unlike before when students go to school. Now, the task of the parents is to impose discipline while maintaining the balance between learning and helping them in household chores. They can discipline their children through setting the time when to study and allotting time for doing tasks inside the house. An example of it would be making reasonable intervals in both learning and in doing household tasks, like in the morning after meal and doing some cleaning in the kitchen. Then, in the afternoon after eating snacks and at night after dinner. This set up allows learners to deal with lessons with a full stomach. It is very essential, because the vitamins, minerals, and nutrients that the students will receive from the food they intake will help them absorb what they are reading. Food and drinks will also give them energy to do the performance tasks. Another thing that they can do to help their children learn and be disciplined at the same time is to limit the use of cellular phones and participation in the social networking sites. Since they need enough time due to a number of modules that they have, it would be beneficial if they discipline their children on using cellular phones. They can set time when to use this gadget. These are some of the ways on how
to discipline their children while learning in the new normal without incorporating punishments, like physical and verbal.

Parents may be facing problems on how to help their children learn, but they can overcome these challenges through understanding the present situation and to focus on what is needed and asked them to do to help their children and the education system. With the assistance coming from the school and the teachers, parents can collaborate with them to help the students study in this time of emergency.

References:
