NO BACKING DOWN

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The whole world right now is in chaos as the frightening Coronavirus Disease mainly known as COVID-19 continuously lashes its danger. Indeed, this pandemic has changed our whole lives, for we do not know until when.

According to the World Health Organization, the Philippines had its first case last January 2020. The case worsens as the first local transmission in March was initiated. Up to this date, 206,000 cases were already recorded. Of course, a lot of everyday activities were halted. It includes businesses, events, concerts, work as well as school. Social gatherings are strictly prohibited. Because of this a lot of people and organizations transitioned to the digitalized world. Working from home was easily initiated by some agencies. Some events as well were being held through online interaction. Even concerts were being watched in front of the screens. Some people are easily adapting to this so-called "new normal era".

But of course, we will not only tackle the lighter side of the situation. In the Philippines, darker issues emerge as well, especially in the talk of education. People are skeptical as they begin to inquire whether schools will continue or not. I mean why, if other groups are easily transitioning, why not school as well? Unfortunately in the Philippines, poverty will come in talk as well. Poverty in the Philippines is a huge deal. There are a lot of people still suffering from making that stable income they need for every day. Since online interaction requires the use of high-quality equipment such as computers and smartphones, a lot of Filipinos are in doubt. As they are having a hard time for everyday needs what more about this expensive equipment? Will the government still pursue the continuation of education?
Eventually, the government more specifically the Department of Education (Dep-Ed) Secretary Leonor Briones announced that classes will continue whatever form it may be. She cited that her department's simulation of online classes was very successful. She also proposed "face-to-face" learning in low-risk areas.

Filipinos are shocked. Students are confused as much as their teachers. Not everyone can just adapt to the environment of digitalized learning. Luckily, some government agencies as well as non-government were initiating free giveaways of laptops and other devices. But still, is that enough to equip the whole nation with regards to the engagement with education? Some individuals are even having a hard time to have a stable internet connection what more people in faraway areas.

According to Rappler almost 6 million students decided to not enroll for the school year. Also, some may have enrolled only because they have fear of getting behind their classmates who has the capability for online classes. Moreover, some children keep on pressuring their parents to buy them gadgets they will need.

Teachers as well who are not inclined with the use of technology are having a hard time transition. From books and chalk, they now have to use computers and the internet. They are only making lesson plans, but now the creation of slide show presentations is also a must.

References: