PARENTS EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES IN THE NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

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“Parents are our partners in this new normal” - DepEd

To maximize the holistic growth and development of a learner, education should be in partnership between the teachers and the parents. Their teamwork can push the students to go beyond their limits and to feel secured in their journey of learning. Continuous learning is more challenging when face-to-face interactions are limited or impossible, but never has there been a better time to invest in learning for parents who are more than eager to play an important role in the lives of their children.

Given the new normal situation, parents somehow see this as a downfall in the lives of their children. Some see this as a breakthrough in the educative process of the students. COVID-19 situation is new to everyone especially to parents since they will take a big part in the new normal setup. Despite the harsh reality of the pandemic we are experiencing right now, we Filipinos have a unique way of finding means to survive and look at it with optimism.

Since education is no longer held within the school, parents serve as partners of teachers in education. They play a vital role as home facilitators. Their primary role in modular learning is to establish a connection and guide the child. (FlipScience, 2020).

According to The Manila times (2007), data from the Learner Enrollment and Survey Form showed that 8.8 million parents preferred modular, while 3.9 million voted for blended learning, which combines different modalities: module, television and radio, and radio with online.
Being optimistic is one of the ways to survive for some of our parents nowadays. With the new normal situation we all are experiencing, we cannot do anything but to accept and survive every day without compromising the learning process of our students.

According to an interview by the Department of Education to Hanah Espinosa Carpio, a mother of five, she needs to prepare herself in helping her children learn by studying the modules, acknowledging that the new learning modality can compete with her daily household chores. "But (we) need to be patient, and we need to study more, as a mother," she said. She said she needed to manage the time first to understand what's written on the different modules.

As stated by Saint Francis of Assisi College on their article entitled “How Parents Can Support the New Normal of Education”, there are ways to cope with the new normal situation as parents being the teachers:

- **Provide a Learning Space**
  
  Just as how work-from-home parents need a designated area to work effectively, learners need their space as well. It just needs to be quiet, equipped with their learning materials, and dedicated for studying only. This way they will subconsciously feel the need to attend classes and feel the presence of a learning environment.

- **Construct a Schedule**

  Routines and schedules in school are equally important in their study area at home. Learners can function best if they have routine to follow. Parents can set mobile alarms to guide their child’s schedule especially for parents who are working. Encourage them to take a time off to relax especially they don’t have their classmates around.

- **Allow them to communicate with friends**
Allow them to talk to their friends through messengers or video calls so that they will feel their presence and also do school works together. One effective method in learning is peer-learning which they can do with their friends. You can add this to their schedule so they won’t spend too much time chatting with friends.

- Keep in touch with other parents

Communicating with other parents can help elevate the power of blended learning. Since this framework encourages parent-teacher teamwork, there might be other ways they found effective for their child. Or maybe they are having some difficulties in embracing this framework and you might be able to extend a helping hand.

- Don’t forget to schedule time for fun

Everyone will be transitioning from traditional to blended learning as mandated by the new normal so it might be stressful for some people. That’s why it is also important to allot time to unwind and have fun with your kids. It can be simple bonding like card games, charades, movie marathon, and more.

And so, the continuing education of our students depends greatly on one of our stakeholders now: THE PARENTS. It is a given fact that all teachers want the students to continue schooling in every way possible. It remains undeniable that all parents can and should participate meaningfully in their children’s education and provide essential learning skills to children at home using the limited available resources.
References:

