PHILIPPINE EDUCATION THRIVING AMID PANDEMIC

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In the course of the pandemic COVID-19, the Department of Education released a memorandum last 8th of April 2020 to help teachers continue the facilitation of the students’ learning process. The said memorandum sought to deliver guidelines on the use of desktop computers, laptops, tablet PCs, and Smartphones at home during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Moreover, an authorization to every school head in releasing the equipment needed was signed and implemented by Alain Del B. Pascua, the department’s undersecretary. This necessary step paved way to new strategies of teaching and innovative techniques of learning.

The sudden outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Luzon lead President Rodrigo Duterte’s declaration of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) effective on the 16th of March 2020. The proclamation restricts the movement of population in response to the growing pandemic. The terrible situation resulted to the closing of educational institutions, making learning inside classrooms impossible. This left the teachers and students with very few alternatives and one of them is to adopt online teaching and learning.

With this transition, online teaching can also be challenging to teachers who lack the equipment needed. As a solution to this dilemma, the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA) presented the memorandum that mandates school heads to release equipment for the conduction of online trainings, and online classes. The process is subjected to guidelines which should be strictly followed. In addition, the department assured their eagerness in pushing new boundaries so that education can still continue
(Briones, 2020). This time, the DepEd made learning possible through the use of online learning delivery platforms.

Keeping abreast with the current situation, the teachers now explore the trends of digital technology and its use in effective online teaching. Several applications and softwares are used in practice to expand their knowledge and experience. Parents are also encouraged to support this significant step to make sure that their child’s learning is not hindered, for according to Briones (2020), education must persist even in times of crisis, calamity, disaster, emergency, quarantine, or even war.

It is true that Education is not always confined within the four walls of the classroom (Agapito, 2018). The Philippine Education showed historical evidence which proved that Filipinos started learning under a tree, and started writing on leaves. Because of the ongoing ECQ, education now showed Filipino teachers teaching in front of a screen monitor and students learning from it miles away. 21st century had shown the country numerous challenges. Despite of this, with the guidance of the hard-working Department of Education, education will never be quarantined.

References:

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