PHILIPPINE EDUCATION UNDER THE NEW NORMAL SITUATION:  
A REALITY TALK

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Everybody was caught off guard at the onslaught of the deadly Covid-19 virus here in our country and around the world. People eventually were forced to adopt the “NEW NORMAL” set-up. The government established quarantine restrictions all over the country.

Hence, it was no surprise when the Department of Education (DepEd) implemented distance or remote learning in the school year 2020-2021. The traditional face-to-face classes will not be possible to avoid the spread of the said virus. Instead, lessons will be delivered thru different learning modalities such as Modular Distance Learning, Online Distance Learning, TV-based instruction/radio-based instruction and Blended Distance Learning. Even though the Philippines is far behind our neighbor countries in Asia in terms of integrating technology in our educational system, our education department pushed for a more advance method of learning to help students in their studies, right in the comfort of their own homes.

The Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs) was developed and designed not just a response to address the challenges of the pandemic, but this was also part of the Department’s long-term response to the challenge of SDG4 to develop resilient education systems, most especially during emergencies. Our department tried its best too in order to ensure that learning must continue even in times of pandemic.
The Department of Education had planned to implement face-to-face learning instruction in low-risk areas in the country last December 2020 to serve as pilot schools. However, the President recalled the idea because of uncertainty in safety both for pupils and teachers as the vaccines to fight the virus are not yet delivered in our midst.

In the meantime, education will continue in our country in whatever platform or delivery modes except face-to-face until the health and safety of our children and educators will not be compromised. As what DepEd Secretary Briones have stated that the SLMs and the alternative learning delivery modalities are in place to address the needs, situations, and resources of each learner and will cover all the bases in ensuring the Basic Education will be accessible amidst the present crisis caused by Covid-19.

In this regard, our President, especially the Department of Education are hopeful that this temporary scheme in providing education among learners in this pandemic situation will help in continuing the desire of the state to educate freely the young minds in whatever situation for in order for them to succeed in the future.

References:


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