PREEMINENT DISTANCE LEARNING MODALITY AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

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Major changes in our daily lives happened because of the pandemic that we are facing this year. Our normal lives turned into staying at home during quarantine to avoid being infected with the coronavirus, activities before like going to the mall, attending a gathering and even going to school are now strictly prohibited thus forcing us to adapt to the “new normal” way of living. In this transition, education must not be compromised hence distance learning has been acknowledged by the Department of Education. This type of learning allows the student to continue studying even at home.

Modular distance learning, online distance learning, home schooling and blended learning are the types of distance learning (Llego, 2020). Among these, modular distance learning is being considered as the best modality. Accessibility is one of the major factors why modular learning has been considered as the best. According to the partial results of the recently conducted Learner Enrollment and Survey Forms, 7.2 million enrollees prefer the modular distance learning and 2 million enrollees prefer online distance learning (Malipot, 2020). This data only shows that because Philippines is a third-class country, not all students have internet connections at home thus making online distance learning not manageable for all.

On the other hand, modular distance learning will be accessible by all students because the teachers will be providing the modules that will be picked up by the parents from the school. Proper precautions like social distancing and wearing of face mask and face shield must be observed by the parents during the distribution of the modules. In this way, the health of the children will be the top priority.
With the help of the properly structured modules approved by the Department of Education, parents of the kindergarten pupils will be their teacher at home. Activities and worksheets will also be included in the modules and at the end of the week, the teacher will collect these and evaluate the learning progress of the students to know what to improve for the following set of modules.

The difference of the traditional face-to-face learning and the modular distance learning is quite enormous but given the situation that the country is facing where in all children are advised to stay at home, the Department of Education is doing its best provide and adjust to the new normal to avoid the academic freeze and help the students to continue learning amidst this pandemic.

References: