PRIORITISING QUALITY EDUCATION AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Public education has been on the edge because of the current world health crisis brought by coronavirus. There are about 1.6 billion students in more than 190 countries have agonized from the effect of school closure. Based on UN report, there are approximately more than 98% of learners are affected by this crisis.

Education has been battling many problems even before the onset of pandemic. The access to quality education is still impossible to many students due to violence brought by war, culture, disabilities and poverty. Now due to pandemic, the situation has worsened. Schools are forced to close, students stay at home while studying to avoid getting infected. Teachers are working at home, finding ways to stay on track with the students despite of the struggles of the new normal learning modality.

Chaudhury (2020) claimed that education is not about accessing information in the internet. According to him, everyone has the ability to get information from different websites and online platforms but not all can turn these information into knowledge without proper education. Therefore, quality education is really at risk when the teachers have no direct contact to the students. Students’ interactions to teachers and peers will help them to gain quality education and experiences, unfortunately this has come to an abrupt halt because of the deadly virus.

The Department of Education, together with the administrators and teachers, tirelessly finds alternative ways to prioritise quality education amidst COVID-19. Distance learning through printed modules or SLM, radio-based instructions, video
lessons and the never ending support and guidance of the teachers is a great help for the students to achieve quality education even in this time of struggles.

References:
