PROGRESSION OR REGRESSION: THE PROS AND CONS OF ONLINE LEARNING

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The covid-19 virus has taken most of us by surprise. Although the problem of the virus has been simmering as early as the mid of last year, no one has anticipated for it to be a global scale pandemic.

The Philippine government is ill-equipped to handle this kind of catastrophe, a fact that was proven in the past couple of months. Although efforts were exerted, the system is just overwhelmed. Aside from the health sector, which is the faction that was hit the hardest by the covid-19 pandemic; the education sector was also struck unawares. Admittedly despite the education system’s advances in the past years, it is still not yet ready to dwell on the fully computer based and automated style of learning. However, faced with the predicament that is the pandemic, the system has no other choice but to adapt.

Like any other teaching and learning approach, the online education also has its pros and cons; it is a matter of weighing the odds in order to completely make the most of the method. The set of advantages and disadvantages differ for kindergarten up to grade 12 and university students.

For preschoolers up to grade 12 students the concept of online education is extensively foreign, unlike other western countries where online classes are common and are not out of the norms, in the Philippines this kind of education is next to unheard of. During this pandemic, the greatest advantage that online education provides is the means of being able to continue schooling without the risks of spreading and contracting the
virus (Hou, 2020). Online education also introduces the self-pace learning, with all the instructional materials and lessons given via the internet, the students can set their own pace and time in which they can study (O’Donoghue Et. Al., 2004). Unlike with regular schooling where students need to keep up with the momentum of the class and the time limit set by the teacher, in online classes this is minimized which grant student with time that they can spend with other things such family bonding or hobbies. Online classes also reduce transportation cost since students are stationary within their own homes.

But then there are disadvantages alongside those factors. Unlike the U.S and or other Asian countries that also choose the route of online education as a response to the pandemic, the Philippines do not have enough central support system to launch this method of education. Firstly, not every student has the equipment need to undergo online classes, i.e. computer devices and internet connection. There is a huge sum of the Filipino students enrolled in public schools that can barely afford to attend school despite the fact that there is no tuition fee. These are students that can not afford to buy material for online education. Internet service is also a factor in which make online education severely hard for many students. There place and areas, especially in the provinces that do not have stable or existing internet signals.

It is a huge challenge for educational providers and the government as how they will make this accessible to general public, especially for those who can not provide for themselves. Education is a necessity that is highly relevant more than ever.
References:

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