RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF NUMBERS AND SURVEYS ON CRAFTING POLICIES ON THE NEW EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

by:
Rozan A. Quisay

Corona Virus Disease or commonly known as COVID-19 is caused by a newly discovered virus which was named as Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2). COVID-19 had its outbreak last December 2019 in Wuhan, China and it has rapidly spread across continents due to human-to-human transmission. With the start of the second quarter of the year, it has already infected more than a hundred countries and million cases were reported. This virus attacks the respiratory system which cause difficulty in breathing and may lead to severe pneumonia.

With the growing number of COVID-19 cases here in the Philippines, the Department of Education presented the new educational plan which will serve as the framework for education related activities, programs and policies under the new normal while prioritizing the health and safety of learners and both non-teaching and teaching personnel. The organization crafted solutions in order to cater the new normal by the use of Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) as guidelines to ensure the safety of all.

COVID-19 has always been referred to as the “invisible enemy”. However, as a response of different agencies to fight this crisis, the role of data was seen as crucial element in crafting different plans and policies. On the part of the education sector, to ensure that no child will be left behind and to further understand their condition during this health crisis, Learner Enrolment and Survey form were made available to parents through online and drop box methods. The use of this survey form is to have data on the readiness of learners and their preferred method of learning.
During a crisis, it is important to recognize the importance of data and its analysis on the policy and solution making. Policies should be based on the actual scenario on the field and not just based on ideas from the ivory tower and that is detached from reality. The effectiveness of a policy or program always depends on the accuracy of data and its analysis.

References:

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019