REDEFINING TEACHERS’ ROLES IN THE NEW NORMAL
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Teachers play a vital part in the learning process, be it in the persona of someone who is teacher by profession or an expert on the topic or skill to be taught. They play a part that goes far beyond teaching—from setting the classroom environment to make it conducive, and using effective teaching techniques to come up with a lesson plan that suites the students’ needs, to being an innovator, external parent, counselor, a good example, among others for according to Lanier (1997), the roles of a teacher has continuously evolved.

The sudden turn of events during the pandemic has shaken everyone in every field. Requests for an academic freeze roared as parents feared for the safety of their children. Moreover, the role of teachers was put into question as it seems that the profession is much more of a homework, defying the norm that teachers must actively engage students to impart knowledge (Torres, 2020). Despite the doubts, Department of Education (DepEd) stood its ground and faced the challenge of the new normal. Clearly, the pandemic has proven the resiliency of educators as innovators, transitioning from the traditional classroom teaching to distant learning.

The Department of Education (DepEd) turned to Distant Learning Modalities to ensure continuity of student learning amidst the pandemic. Platforms are designed for online learning. The Most Essential Learning Competencies are singled out as basis for the creation of modules. Webinars are held to train and prepare teachers to deliver their lessons through distant learning modalities, yet as Torres (2020) described it, ‘there is no program that could have prepared any of us to teach in a pandemic’.
Teachers grapple to cope with the new normal in teaching. Inclined or not, teachers must face it, technology is now more than ever, an irrevocable and integral part of the profession as good communication became a crucial part of teaching in the new normal. There it is, the ill-fated and inevitable fact that the pandemic provides an opportunity to put into good use the 21st century skills the sector has been emphasizing as an important aspect of the K-12 curriculum (Delgado, 2020).

Teachers must work together with parents, and guardians to recreate the learning experience in the safety of the learners’ homes, each having a unique environment, using information, media and technology skills (Tinga, 2020; Tuscano, 2020), hence providing an opportunity for them to step out of their comfort zone and once again, redefine teaching (Gamiao, 2020).

References:


Torres, C. (2020, November 21). What is a teacher’s role in “the new normal”? Honolulu, Hawaii.
