RESILIENCE IN THE BUCKLES OF THE ‘NEW NORMAL’
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 Millions of people are suffering economically due to the sudden hit of global pandemic which resulted into massive job loss that paralyzes the economy. There are many essential industries and sectors that are critically affected specifically the educational sector. Suspending school opening indefinitely until the vaccine is found creates pressure on the part health care systems because hampering educational activity can worsen our already failing economy.

While it is understandable that health must be the top priority, what is being overlooked is that lack of graduates would create a crisis in the needed professionals in different field. Also, teachers, most especially from private schools, will tend to look for other jobs to sustain the needs of their family, which can cause brain drain as they leave the academe to purse other profession. To avoid such, the Department of Education prepares for the ‘new normal’ in education amid COVID-19 situation.

DepEd Undersecretary and Spokesperson Annalyn Sevilla said that there are existing interventions to be used in education even before the pandemic. Even the DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones is optimistic that learning must pursue even there is a pandemic. The department are preparing alternative deliver mode in order to enable students to continue learning without face-to-face interaction in the classroom. DepEd also encourages students and parents to embrace the ‘new normal’ because it is how we are going to survive and continue to thrive even where are in the midst of pandemic crisis.

According to Estrada (2020), education is an essential activity, and a critically affected sector. It needs to continue. And it needs government support. It would save the government more to fund online and distance education of students in both public and private schools, than providing financial support to those who would be economically displaced if education is indefinitely stalled. While the stakeholders need to adjust in embracing the ‘new normal’, experts from both public and private sectors to continue to find ways to work on modes to deliver education without asking our students to go back to school physically, as we all work hard to bring back the confidence to continue learning amidst the pandemic.
However, the proposed on-line learning might just create discrimination to those families who cannot and will not be able to afford laptops and the likes which will be a must in online education. This pandemic has resulted in unemployment as many employees will be laid off. In such case, the priorities of the families would change, thus, buying laptops and the likes for online education would not be on top but the necessities of life, which births the possibility that there will be students who will be left behind. Hence, DepEd Officials are doing all their effort to come out with the best and appropriate alternative delivery approach for every learners so that even though on-line learning may seem to be an impossible choice for some, there will still be an alternative for those who are not capable of having equipment and Internet access to pursue learning.

References: