SELF-LEARNING MODULES IN THE NEW NORMAL
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The academic year for 2020-2021 will push through despite the threat of pandemic as the Department of Education prepared self-learning modules with different alternative learning modalities that will fit the needs of diverse learners. The alternatives include the use of radio, television, modules, blended, and online. These SLMs together with the mentioned learning modalities will help DepEd ensure that the learners will still have an access to quality education despite the situation that even other countries are facing. This set-up will still continue as long as face-to-face classes are still prohibited.

DepEd assures that modules will reach all the enrolled learners because the printed modules will be delivered to schools that are located at far-flung places, coastal areas, and communities that have no access to Internet connectivity or electricity. The SLMs can also be accessed online that is why those students who have the capacity to go online can utilize the online modules. The modules were based on most essential learning competencies (MELCs) because other competencies are not that possible to enhance because of the limited interaction in class.

In addition, more parents prefer modular learning as reported by Manila Times on July 31. Based on the partial results of the Learner Enrollment and Survey Forms (LESFs) distributed during the enrollment period showed that 8.8 million parents preferred modular, while 3.9 million wanted blended or a combination of two or more modalities. The survey also found that 3.8 million parents preferred online learning; 1.4 million, educational TV; and 900,000, radio-based instruction. About half a million parents wanted other systems such as face-to-face classes.

However, last August 4, Manila Bulletin reported that a teachers’ federation called the attention of DepEd on various issues raised by public school teachers in the field regarding the preparation for modular learning. Teachers expressed disappointment that while they have been tasked to make the activity sheets that will come with the modules, “they have not seen until today the copies of these modules, forcing them to just base the activity sheets on last year’s
“lessons.” Reproduction cost is also a big problem as schools were forced to find ways to raise funds in so short a time.

The school year have not started yet, but there are already serious dilemmas that the teachers are facing. These must be addressed immediately to avoid more serious complications in the future most especially the opening of classes is approaching. It is important to listen to the outcries of the teachers because they are the ones who have first-hand experiences when it comes to teaching. This is the time when DepEd has to consider the pleas of teachers, because without them, the educational system will not work. There is nothing wrong with promoting learning amidst pandemic as long as the issues are being addressed appropriately in a short period of time.

References: