STATUS OF EDUCATION AMIDST THE PANDEMIC: THE NEW NORMAL

by:

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A sudden change in implementing the learning environment and process has been implemented as Covid 19 pandemic hit the country. Revisions of old types of classes and schedules and the mode of learning have been imposed by the government and the Department of Education in pursuit of continuing the academic year despite the new normal waiting for us. Educators, students, and the whole citizens of the country have tried to adapt and cope with the situation. The new normal, from traditional face-to-face classes, has been changed into modular and online class types. A 5 day school day standard a week before has been transformed into 2 or 3 days of online consultations plus modules to be answered by learners. Examinations being given at school through test papers have been changed into Google forms and Google classroom. In particular, virtual classrooms have been implemented through zoom and google meet meetings to reach out and communicate with students.

The implementation of the new normal allows the students to set appropriate learning goals and helps them be responsible for their learning by managing their time schedules, competing for their requirements and activities, and participating in virtual classes. Education in the new normal is a new experience for the students, teachers, and even parents. However, everyone is trying to cope well and provide well-quality teaching to make learners feel the essence, similar to a traditional face-to-face class. Following the new normal, various challenges can't be avoided, such as internet issues, lack of technology-related gadgets, managing virtual class presentations, reaching out to inactive students, completing requirements, and finding it hard to handle with the new normal.
Millions of students face these challenges, teachers, and parents, but they do well despite the situation and do their best to adjust and keep going amidst the pandemic.

Aside from facilitators, educators, and their students, people worldwide adjust and integrate well to minimize the hardship of dealing with the new normal changes. But as the new normal arises, various positive inclined influences emerge, such as learning flexibility and self-paced learning, lower costs, improved virtual communication and collaboration, better time management, refined critical thinking skills, and new technical skills in education. In dealing with a situation like this, we must try to fit ourselves and cope up and embrace the changes instead of thinking about how it ruins the old system, its negative impact, associated issues, or challenges. Everyone struggles, but not all chose to sit back and complain; some tried to walk continually towards their life and embrace the new normal.

References:
The New Normal Education in the Philippines.