SYNERGY IN EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

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What is synergy? Synergy is defined as the concept that the combined performance value of two bodies will be greater than the total performance of the separate individual a part (www.investopedia.com).

In terms of education, synergy is attained when several methods of learning improvement, teacher-based and student-based, are combined to create a more holistic method.

In a teacher-based improvement method, the adjustments and the developments are focused on the teachers. It is widely believed that in order to provide quality and effective learning, the educational providers must be the one to adapt the new technologies and methods of teaching. It is true in a degree, that in order to be efficient in teaching, one must be in the loop with the new ways to improve the learning experience of students. However, the existence of student-based learning improvement also contradicts this theory in a way. In a student-based learning improvement method, the adjustments are made to the students. It includes instilling proper time management, learning behavior, as well as good study habits. Students are required to have a distinct understanding of their personal abilities, skills, motivations and goals, as well as their flaws and shortcomings. This is to ensure that the students learn regardless of the quality of teaching.

Synergy is the counterintuitive idea that breaks the barrier between these learning improvement methods.

Synergy in education is most especially vital during these time, with the coronavirus pandemic ravaging the norms of education. The method of learning that
most schools, particularly public schools use today to avoid physical contact of teachers and students is the modular approach. Models are created and prepared by the teachers remotely and then are distributed to the students, in which they will answer at home with the help of their parents. This method highly relies on the efficiency of teachers in providing quality and well-structured modules as well as the ability of students to self-motivate and do their task.

The method theory is simple enough, however the execution of said method is more complicated. There are two participles that needs to be addressed, the what and how, the what refers to the lessons and topics that needs to be learned and the how is the method of teaching that will be used. In the case of the home-based education, the how is the modules. Unlike in a classroom setting, student-based learning method that involves interaction with other students is difficult to apply at home. This is where the parents come in to the picture. The parents will be the stand-in for these kinds of developmental interaction for their children.

This is why letting the child answer the modules themselves and not spoon-feed them the answers is important. It gives them sense of responsibility and build their self-motivation which is important because it does not let the child to depend on others too much and urges the child to tap on their strengths to meet their desired outcomes (www.harappa.education.com). But it also essential to have interaction with them, to stimulate their minds through exchange of ideas.

On the other hand, teachers and parents also need to have wider perspectives and an open mind, as a huge part of the learning of students, they also need to be willing to learn through the eyes of the students. Sometimes it is easy to undermine the abilities of children to think or learn by themselves because they are younger or adults deem them less experienced. But give the chance, students can come up with the most brilliant ideas and outlooks. There are times when students’ perceptions are innovative and fresh. This is fact that most adults of previous generation need to accept.
But it is still very significant to maintain a proper equilibrium between the control that the supervisor be it teacher or parents give the children/students and the discipline they employ. The rules and guidelines makes the students grounded, knowing that there are positive and negative consequences from their actions and choices. It not only applies with their studies but is something that they will be able to carry to adulthood.

Synergy is not only in a two-way interaction; it can involve more factors or people working together to achieve favorable results.

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