THE CHALLENGES IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AMIDST OF PANDEMIC

by:

Julie Ann S. Torres
Teacher III, New San Jose Elementary School

We are all surprised and not gets prepared in this pandemic era that the whole world is experiencing right now. We realize the importance of so many things. Honestly, we miss the things that we are doing before, right? This pandemic has affected so many lives, but still, we need to act and survive to continue what we started. First and foremost, we need to give importance to children's education.

Students are heterogeneous in the learning process, sometimes there are slow and fast learners, in traditional teaching we give remedial and enhancement activity to the learners at risk. But right now, we cannot do it personally, we ask for the assistance of the parents. Knowing to know that not all parents take care of our responsibility as a teacher of their child. But some parents persevere in the learning progress, and we as a teacher are thankful for that reason. Formal education has changed a lot at this time of the pandemic. Each of us has a greater involvement in the learning process (parents and teachers). We as a teacher, always support and provide modules and other supplementary materials just for the learning continuity and meet the competencies even in this time of the pandemic.

When it comes to students well being, we cannot deny the fact that their health must be taken at risk if there could be face-to-face schooling. There are many issues and concerns about the continuation of face-to-face learning inside the classroom. In sustaining safe schools and healthy communities some factors should be considered. One of these is their protection, aren't they safe? How can be the teachers and the learners can
be protected from the overwhelming spread of the virus even there are so many different learning delivery mode is their safety is not forsaken.

Teachers and learners are not virus proof they are only ordinary people that need protection and need to be safe in this kind of pandemic. Teachers should be effective in teaching if they are in better health conditions, likewise also the learners.

Teachers need professional development to help them cope with challenges amidst the pandemic, especially those who are working with the most vulnerable students. Training and seminars are now virtually done through webinars. The primary concern of DepEd is the teachers' welfare that’s why they are conducting this kind of virtual workshops and training.

According to the Department of Education, (Aide Memoire) “Accelerating Teachers Training Via Webinar, Video Uploads, Television, and Radio Broadcast and Insets” it states that between April to June 2020 the ICT Service Technology Unit (ICTS-EdTech) was able to conduct online webinars for 11 courses covering various ICT based tools for teachers. These webinars were attended by a total of 1,419,007 participants many of whom found the topics to be relevant and therefore attended multiple courses. As a result, most of the professional training that we attended are most about computer literacy in connection with distance learning amidst of pandemic. Others are psychosocial support given to teachers, parents, and students.

The key components of BE-LCP include streamlining the K to 12 Curriculum to the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs); multiple learning delivery modalities, with blended learning and distance learning as major options; preparing teachers and school leaders for multiple learning delivery modalities; like face to face, modular distance learning, distance learning, and online learning. The main question is did the graduates of this pandemic learned the competencies that the program? I think not all because face-to-face is still effective when it comes to establishing knowledge and skills
among students. Direct Instruction inside the classroom is still the best and here, the students can easily acquire knowledge through discovery, exploration at their own paced.

If I would run a business, why not still considering their knowledge and skills when it comes to working? Yes, I will also hire them because despite the challenges these graduates are still hoping for a better future. Their dreams and ambitions are still there, let us give them the chance to show their talents and abilities in the field that they have chosen, besides Filipinos are hard workers. They can easily adjust and learn things easily.

References: