THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN EDUCATION

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The latest COVID-19 pandemic, which began in China and has nearly affected every nation in the world, is among the latest outbreaks of diseases of concern worldwide, and the educational sector is one of the most impacted departments.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant problems and has impacted educational institutions, and yet no one determines if it will ever resolve. Each country currently implements infection containment processes and strategies, with the infections continuing to increase. The current normal should also be included in the preparation and execution of the "new standard education program," to maintain as well as provide educational opportunities despite lockdowns and community quarantine.

With over a year of crisis, more than 28 million students in the Philippines have been infected by this infection (UNESCO, 2020). Actions such as community lockdown, including community quarantine from various provinces in the Philippines, contributed to the provision of distance learning on education comprising online learning platforms, modular learning blended learning, and digital learning.

As a result of these circumstances, school administrators and educational leaders have agreed to follow the regularities of the new educational normal. The Department of Education (DepEd) introduced the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) in basic education for the School Year 2020-2021, with classes started last August 24, 2020, instead of June 2020. (DepEd, 2020). On a higher note, the Commission on Higher Education granted academic freedom to HEIs in higher educational institutions, requiring them to use accessible online courses, e-learning, and other viable methods of delivery to students (CHED, 2020).

Therefore, the aim should be to provide quality, integrated, and accessible education to every student as the new normal for education while improving educational readiness and wellbeing.

References: