THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MODULAR DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF REGION III

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From “Ma’am and Sir” to “Ma, Pa, Ate, and Kuya”. Learning will not be the same again for students thriving for their right to education.

It is a common knowledge that education plays a vital part to become productive citizens in our country so that most, if not all, of the parents are working hard to earn money just to sustain the needs of their children. But the present education system has encountered challenges in delivering basic education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, where holding of classes in schools is compromised due to prohibitions following the implementation of General Health and Safety Protocols such as convergence and face-to-face contact.

Exactly a year ago when the first COVID-19 case was recorded in March last year, the country was placed under a state of national emergency. COVID-19 introduced a new normal way of interaction among people. Continued learning is more challenging when face-to-face interactions are limited or made impossible, but never has there been a better time to invest in learning for secondary public schools of Region III, than this time.

“Education cannot wait,” said DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones. To maintain the education of millions of Filipino learners, the government implemented a distance learning approach. It is also for the continuity of education and for every school to still attain its mission and vision which is to provide quality education to every Filipino learner. COVID-19 has concreted the way to the implementation of Modular Distance Learning as a vital response to ensure continuousness of education. The Philippines is still in the progression of adapting to the new normal form of education. Continuous
Innovations of educators and active involvement of other stakeholders are the driving force for its success.

Distance Learning refers to a learning delivery modality, where learning takes place between the teacher and the learners who are geographically remote from each other during instruction. This modality has three types: Modular Distance Learning (MDL), Online Distance Learning (ODL), and TV/Radio-Based Instruction. (Quinones, 2020)

According to Bernardo, J (2020), modular learning is the most popular type of Distance Learning. In the Philippines, learning through printed and digital modules emerged as the most preferred distance learning method of parents with children who are enrolled this academic year. This is also in consideration of the learners in rural areas where internet is not accessible for online learning.

According to The Manila times (2007), an enrolment survey conducted by Department of Education (DepEd) showed that about 41% of parents in Region 3 (Central Luzon) preferred the modular approach for their children this school year. About 27 percent preferred online learning; 18 percent, a combination of face-to-face with other modalities; 10 percent, television; 8 percent, other modalities; and 3 percent, radio-based learning.

It is in this context that parents/guardians play a vital role for the fruitful outcome of this endeavor. Their guidance and support inspire the kids to work hard and be motivated to study. Under the new normal, school personnel, parents, and stakeholders must work jointly with each other for the learners to acquire the best quality education that they deserve.

“No Filipino learner will be left behind amidst the crisis” statement remains a support towards the battle cry “learning must continue”. The Department of Education
and the stakeholders collaborate together towards the success of Philippine Educational System despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

References:

