THE NEW NORMAL MANTRA: TEACHING AND LEARNING SHOULD NEVER STOP

by:
Josephine M. Borja
Teacher II, Townsite Elementary School

It was March 2020 when the President Rodrigo Duterte imposed an enhanced community quarantine throughout the island of Luzon. Since then, the traditional face-to-face setup is not advisable and put on to hold while we maintain physical distance amid an ongoing pandemic. Guidelines of the COVID-19 IATF and Department of Health (DOH) were administered and followed strictly and effectively. In doing so, the education system – like many other sectors – was forced to shift digitally.

For what it is worth, educating the youth even during a pandemic and after the occurrence of natural calamities is thus far not only important but crucial.

In order to provide clear guidance to all offices, units, schools and community learning centers of the Department of Education, learners, parents, partners and stakeholders, the Department developed a BE-LCP, a package education intervention that will respond to basic education challenges brought about by COVID-19. This plan serves as the framework that all the internal and external stakeholders of education should adhere while the country is currently facing the pandemic. With the initiative of the DepEd through this BE-LCP, the teaching and learning process should and will never stop. The department is doing its best to continue educating the youth no matter what platform it may be. The transitioning of classroom to class home and the partnership between the parents, local government units and the school should be strengthened because in this trying time, unity amidst diversity in opinions and beliefs is very important.
While it is an acknowledged fact that the challenges in implementing blended/flexible learning in the country amid the pandemic have been intensified by the damage imposed by the series of typhoons, and the current COVID-19 pandemic, nevertheless, these should not be used as reasons or excuses to stop the academic year from continuing.

Learning should continue and should not stop just because of a crisis. Students should not be discouraged in time of situation from learning or studying. Rather, they should take it as a challenge and pursue their studies for it is a huge chance that children can still study despite the many challenges faced by the country. This trying times should be the reason why our educators and the students should make double effort to promote the teaching and learning process. This experience should be a motivation and inspiration to do greater things so that in the future if we will be experiencing the same circumstances, we are already equipped and we are in full gear to surpass these challenges.

Filipino students, in general, should look on positive perception and not take education for granted. In times of crises, emergencies, challenges, and difficulties, education, and access to it, should be valued and appreciated even more.

Education is not only a human right but an enabling basic right with a direct impact on the realization of all human rights, this we must not forget. It is a global common good and a primary maneuver of progress and the bedrock of just, equal, inclusive peaceful societies.

References:

Education and the 'new normal' – The Manila Times
manilatimes.net
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11125-020-09521-x
The “new normal” in education
link.springer.com