THE PANDEMIC AND THE ACADEME

by:
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As the whole world welcomed 2020 loudly with sparklers, fireworks and lurid firecrackers; in return it gave us Covid-19 - in a rush, in a blast, in a flash. A virus that has gotten itself present in almost all corners of the globe - without an excuse, without an apology, without an admission of guilt. It turned all nations upside down in just an eye blink and a finger snap.

The virus had taken away hundreds and millions of lives - both young and old in almost all continents. It leaves everyone in futility, hopelessness, distress, fear and some in anger. Nations call for home quarantines for the general public - People are asked to stay inside their homes - no senseless travels, scheduled market days, work from home scheme, no public transport, no social gatherings, no schooling. Just stay at home arrangement for everyone except for frontline workers. The Philippines being a third world country is greatly affected by the pandemic since March 2020 up to present.

Nevertheless, through the efforts wielded by the government and by the public being submissive, number of positive cases shrink or decrease gradually getting the archipelago back to normal. Malls and amusement parks reopened, restaurants and fast-food chains reinstated their operations, no more market day schedules, public transport restored their processes, travels are allowed, everybody are permitted to go outside but in stringent acquiescence and compliance to IATF Social distancing protocols. Almost everything is getting back to its normal pre-covid state, except schooling.

For the purpose of continuing the fight against juvenile ignorance, DepEd came to practice distance learning in the forms of modular and online teaching and learning.
With the joint efforts of teachers and parents the pilot distance learning arrangement gone triumphant with minimal drawbacks and maladies. Just like any other process, this distance learning by DepEd has both its positive and negative edges and flanks.

Distance learning be it modular or online has the sole purpose of bestowing learning to school children while being disrupted by the virus in the comfort of their homes, soundly and safely. It also doesn’t get a year wasted and unused, for a whole academic year is used for knowledge bequeathing despite the pandemic. The new normal teaching process also made the teachers more functional and determined to make any possible way/s just to form, inform and transform their students. It also made parents more hands-on in supervising the learning progress of their children.

Yet, not everyone is blessed to have gadgets and internet connection to fit in or jive in online classes, though it is not the only modality present, still there are lessons made for online learning especially in junior and senior high school classes. Not all learners can ask for help from their parents if they have difficulty understanding the lesson, there some parents who weren’t able to go to high school. Most if not all learners, accomplish their modules for the sole persistence of passing it as a requirement- with of without the “Learning”. For the idea of “NONE OF US WILL FAIL ANYWAY.” Plus, the department also reassures their readiness, but wasn’t able to provide and deliver sufficient and complete modules- and will make the educators reproduce it by their own.

The pandemic is a serious battle that we must face hand in hand. The academe is not the only one affected by this, but if we instill to our minds that the youth is still the hope of our nation, it is but necessary to educate them in any way possible, in any way safe and in any way victorious.

Covid 19 is Covid 19, but we should remember that we are Filipinos. Covid 19, who?
References:

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Distance Learning in the Philippines: What You Need to Know (moneymax.ph)