THE POSITIVE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DURING THE DISTANCE LEARNING

by:
Jackielyn C. Borero

In order to contain and prevent the spread of the virus, a national emergency was taken place when the country had recorded its first Covid-19 case in March, 2020. A new normal way of interaction was brought among people as the various measures were put in place particularly in prohibiting mass gatherings, setting restrictions on movements, and implementing different health protocols such as wearing of facemask and face shield. The Covid-19 pandemic affects people in all walks of life particularly in the aspect of education as the face-to-face classroom setting of learning is not possible. Consequently, the Department of Education (DepEd) adopts alternative modes of learning specifically the distance learning, blended learning, and home schooling so as to ensure that learning is continuous while ensuring the health, safety and welfare among the students, teachers, and other employees.

As part of the new way of learning, different platforms are used by the teachers in communicating knowledge and ideas among the students. They are creating modules and using broadcast communication thru radio and television in following the distance learning; yet, the widely-used among them is the social media. Fernando (2020) claimed that the distance learning is a system of education which is conducted remotely by using electronic communication. Technology and social media are the primary modalities during the “New Normal” education that ensure the safety for both the teachers and students as they will not experience the regular classroom setting that may worsen the case.
As most of the students are hooked in using technologies, the teachers are connected with them and sharing their knowledge thru various social networking sites. Facebook, YouTube, Google Meet and Zoom are some of the channels the teachers are using in presenting the lessons creatively, and in assessing the skills and abilities of their students easily. The teachers are finding the social media as the adjustments that bring changes in the process of education.

Social media during the distance learning provide useful information. They are helpful in teaching as the students may learn in innovative ways. Some teachers are creating interactive videos, preparing educational games, and setting some virtual instructions and assessments that engage the students to increase their full potential that is needed for the future purposes. Social media as a primary tool for learning somehow upgrades the quality of education as it refutes the traditional set-up that jives to the interests and needs of the students today.

According to Hopkins (n.d.), social media in education help the students to increase collaboration and participation. Social media may lead them to become media and information literate that is needed in any work for the future.

Reference:
