THE RISE OF ONLINE DIGITAL LEARNING AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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There has been a drastic change in global education in attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic as it caused the temporary closure of schools across the world. These temporary shutdowns of schools impacted over 60% of the world’s student population which accounts to 1.2 billion children in 186 countries (Li & Lalani, 2020).

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading rapidly across the globe, countries have taken swift and decisive actions to mitigate the development of a full-blown pandemic. In the Philippines, these decisions have led millions of students into temporary ‘home-schooling’ situations in which the online platform is and will be used as a mode of learning. The shift to the use of the digital platforms like Zoom and Google Classroom augmented with synchronous face-to-face video instruction by teachers help preempt the temporary closure of schools.

Amidst all the hurdles brought by the pandemic, resilience must be built into our educational systems. The country looks for stop-gap solutions to continue teaching but the quality of learning is heavily dependent on the level and quality of digital access. These changes have certainly caused a degree of inconvenience especially with the digital access dictated by the socioeconomic classes causes a divide, but they have also prompted new examples of innovation in the sector of education.

The move to online learning could be the catalyst in creating new and effective methods of educating students. While others might be concerned that the hasty nature of this online transition may have hindered this goal, the Philippines is hopeful that e-
learning as part of ‘new normal’ will result to educational benefits of children especially when the DepEd finally opens the classes in the month of October. If online digital learning can play a role in disseminating knowledge across borders, it is incumbent upon all of us to explore its full potential.

References: