THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EIGHT LEARNING MODALITIES
IN TIMES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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As educators, we are all aware and familiar with the different modalities in learning. Students learn from these different types of modalities. The question is, would it also be possible for the students to learn even in this time of global pandemic brought by COVID-19? How? What would be the norms or standards of education in delivering learning in different subject areas to address the necessity of every learners?

First, let us know the different types of modalities on how the students learn and how technology make it possible even there is no face-to-face classroom instructions.

1. Naturalist – students learn by asking questions, perform experiments and investigating things they do not understand with a hands-on approach. Technologically speaking, the students can use the Merge App using their smartphone’s camera or laptop.

2. Intrapersonal – students are intrinsically motivated. Students learn and studies independently. They learn in their own terms. The availability of technology makes the student to learn independently.

3. Interpersonal – students learn through collaborative approaches by interacting with others particularly in group projects and interactive games. Gamification brought by technology is also helpful nowadays to guide the students with their lessons, creating much more interest for them to learn.

4. Bodily Kinesthetic – refers on how students learn through their bodily kinesthetic intelligence using their sense of touch, sensation and gestures. They learn by touching and manipulating objects. Tiktok app and YouTube teach us
on how to move our body especially in dancing, like in Zumba and other physical activities with the tune of music.

5. Spatial/Visual – students are comfortable in visualizing concepts by using maps, charts, diagrams, slides and videos. They learn by drawing, designing and building models. There are many digital art software and apps that can be used nowadays whereas students learn how to draw and make a design digitally.

6. Musical – students learn through melodies, rhythms and tones in music. They also learn by playing musical instruments and sometimes familiarizes the different sounds in their environment. They use music to easily remember things. Many of us tend to tune in our smartphone on different music application that makes us sing, dance, rap and the likes. Also, YouTube video is a big help for us by demonstrating on how to play musical instruments correctly.

7. Logical – students learn logically and conceptually particularly relevant in Mathematics. They also like classifying, experimenting, and categorizing. Microsoft Math Solver, Photomath and Mathway are some of the apps that are useful in studying Mathematics.

8. Linguistic – students able to remember trivia, lyrics, verses and other verbal information belongs to this type of modality in learning. The internet nowadays let publications and articles be heard using the audio tool on a website that can be used especially to those with visual impairment. Most of all, YouTube also help us to learn how to sing with correct lyrics, correct pronunciation, and proper syllabication.

How these eight modalities can be achieved by the students if there is a pandemic and the classrooms are closed? How would teachers prepare a lesson to meet the diversity of learners and make learning effective? Well, thank you to technology. Therefore, teachers nowadays have educational technology subject/s in their undergraduate and
graduate studies to utilize and maximize as possible the use of it in education. This is the vital role of technology in education.

Technology nowadays is becoming ubiquitous in different parts of the country. According to Ian Nicolas Cigaral (philstar.com) published on June 6, 2018, “The Philippines has improved in terms of its preparedness for technological change in the next few years. The Philippines became the 55th spot out of 82 economies, bagged a score of 5.5 and shared the 55th place with Colombia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Sri Lanka. The Philippines ranked 4th for the most tech-ready economy in Southeast Asia.”

Now, students can also learn via the Internet and if they are living in a fur-flung areas or remote areas, printed modules are also available with the use of hi-tech equipment like printers and Riso copier machines.

Students learn nowadays on different online platforms like DepEd commons, Google classroom, Moodle, Brainly – The Homework App, Edmodo, Schoology, Kahoot, YouTube, Quizizz, Quipper, Flipgrid, Quizlet, among others. Whereas, in using these apps, the eight modalities in learning will be achieved. Learning will be evident. Teachers need not to worry on how they will prepare a lesson for diverse learners. If the students will be guided accordingly in using gadgets and technology by their parents.

Based on a survey by Pearson Foundation in the United States, more than six in 10 college students and high school seniors agree that they study more efficiently using tablets. Also, a study by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in California showed that students using iPads performed better in math compared to students using traditional textbooks. Another study at Oklahoma State University that 75 percent of students said the use of gadgets enhanced their learning experience.
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