UNSHAKABLE HEART OF THE PANDEMIC ERA STUDENTS

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Around the month of March last year, the world encountered an abrupt change when the Novel Coronavirus or Covid-19 Virus dominate the whole globe through spreading the contagious virus. The Pandemic severely affected various industries, such as the entertainment industry needs to postpone all the upcoming movies, shoots, and tv series to avoid transmission of the virus. Companies also got affected by the Pandemic, resulting from thousands of Filipinos got unemployed due to the lack of financial support of their workplaces because they all got temporarily closed. The Philippines' economy also got affected by the Pandemic because the country is in an Enhance Community Quarantine Lockdown, the government needs to provide support to their citizens. Implementing New Normal protocols such as wearing a face mask and face shield becomes mandatory. Social distancing should always be maintained, and going outside the house was limited to avoid contagion. The Pandemic made an alteration to the education set-up of students. Department of Education (DepEd) shifts the usual class of students into an online learning set-up. Students will attend online class meetings through online video conferences like google meet and zoom meeting while the teachers were virtually discussing the lessons. Online learning set-up is promising to hear because students' education and study will continue to grow.

However, students don't just spend 9 hours in front of their gadgets attending online classes. Because after the last subject teacher says his/her goodbye to the class students won't stand and leave their desk to relax and rest. But rather they will stay at their desks and begin answering their 5 to 10 pages of activities. Then will start studying for the upcoming quizzes. And most of the time, students take up until 3 am in the morning while filming videos for their performance tasks. Good enough sleep is quite
hard to achieve among students now that they are in new online learning. Not every student is only a student. Most students have household chores to do, such as washing the dishes, taking care of their younger siblings, preparing food, washing dirty clothes, and there are students that are working to have extra income. It is hard to do each task simultaneously. Not all students can multi-task their school works with their household responsibilities. Plus, having an unstable internet is also a factor that affects the students' studies during online classes. The feeling of not being able to understand your teacher because of how slow the internet connection is. Unable to pass documents on time because the upload process is slow. And unable to take an exam because the internet connection is not stable enough to support the site. Not all student has the privilege to buy a new gadget for the online class. Some devices are old and slow. And unlike a laptop, cellphones are not capable enough to perform different tasks. That's why it is hard to conduct research and complete activities when a student lacks sufficient resources.

Notwithstanding all these hindrances and challenges students faced, the will to learn and improve will always prevail. Students find ways to cope and adjust to the online learning set-up. Most students have their notebooks beside them while the teacher is discussing the lesson. Writing down information and meanings is helpful, especially when you don't understand the discussion thoroughly. Thus, when studying, they can go through their lectures to further comprehend the lesson. According to some students using a screen-record while in class is somehow helpful. Particularly when the students do not understand the teacher during the discussion, they can re-watch the screen-record and study the part they don't understand. But if a screen-record is not available, students rely on YouTube videos to further understand the lesson. There tons of YouTube creators that provide teaching videos about different topics to help students in their studies. If students have the opportunity, they can avail themselves an online tutor to help them in their lessons. But for most students that are unable to have online tutoring, self-study can be an alternative. We are all got surprised by the sudden change the pandemic gave to us. Online learning has tons of battles to offer to each one of us. That's the reason all
students' efforts deserve to be acknowledged and applauded. The way they fought their fight, despite all the pain and exhaustion. Students who are determined to succeed in life proved that no one can shake an unshakable heart of a dreamer.

References:

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