COVID-19 pandemic has brought the entire world to a halt that resulted to a new maneuver that every one of us builds uncertainty on what will happen next. Philippine economy gradually notched its ground as this pandemic continuous. Thus, many sectors in our country experienced difficulties in dealing with their own fields. Education sector or the Department of Education didn’t escape its ground in the effect of the aforementioned situation. Teachers, students, and stakeholders are struggling and trying their best to cope in the uncertain future of the new normal education.

As figures in the number of enrollees in academic year 2019-2020, DepEd was expecting to have enrollees at least 27 million Filipino learners in Basic Education System in this academic year – 2020-2021. When the academic calendar started last October 5, teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders were facing enormous changes and challenges in dealing with the new normal education set up. We are already aware with the existence of stakeholders in the education sector; teaching and non-teaching personnel, students, parents, public personas etc. that can significantly contribute in the continuity of learning. Today’s challenge is not only the call of financial and moral assistance in various sectors and/or people, but it is a call of unity. Unlike the other years, Brigada Eskwela deviated its traditional concept of physical cleaning, painting, and repainting and doing some minimal repairs in school into prioritizing preparations in the new normal education and strengthening partnership engagement in ensuring quality basic education amidst the challenges that we experience posed by COVID-19 (DepEd, 2020). The office added that the essential materials that really in need were thermal scanner, hand sanitizing materials, and other
materials that can be useful in preventing the transmission of virus when inside the vicinity of the school.

Despite the department’s preparation for the opening of classes, I can’t easily get rid of this anxiety on what will happen for this academic year. I know that this academic year will have many difficult battles in the continuity of quality education. However, I even know that DepEd will do its very best to extend their effort to at least eradicate the anxiety of each teacher.

As I personally experience the difficulty of this new normal education. The office posted some modalities that were congruently aligned in the social status of each learner. They are certain that these modalities can be maximized for the continuity of quality education (Canaman, 2020). One of those modalities is Modular Distance Learning (MDL) in which learners will be provided Self-Learning Modules (SLMs) by the teachers. This kind of modality enhances not only the knowledge of the students in the subject matter but also elevate their self-awareness, self-learning styles, and independency with the observance of their guardian and/or parents (Llego, 2020).

This fight of quality education is not only the fight of Department of Education itself, but it must be the fight of everyone. Parents/guardians, and Local Government Units (LGU) have a crucial part in assisting the continuity of education. The parents and/or guardians will serve as the facilitator of the learning at home that will provide assistance to their children. Once the parents/guardian don’t/doesn’t have/has the capability to assist their children in a certain subject matter, the teachers are always available in which they can contact through text and call for clarification and further instruction. In that way through proper communication, quality learning still happens. On the other hand, LGU specifically barangay officials, who have the knowledge about the whereabouts of a certain student can assist teachers in reaching out the student who has the difficulty in getting the learning material – module.
Teaching and learning in the new normal education asked everyone to maximize all their effort and/or resources to make an effective engagement. These challenges lit the fire of unity and camaraderie to all the warriors of education. Thus, every one of us plays a crucial part in establishing quality education that can truly bring stability in time of uncertainty. The future of education amidst pandemic remain uncertain, by working together in supporting and empowering the system in our community towards quality education our micro effort will have a macro result.

References:


https://www.teacherph.com/deped-learning-delivery-modalities/