YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

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The world continues to tackle with inevitable challenges posed by COVID-19 as well as the virus variants that emerged from it. It includes healthcare problems which put one’s both physical and mental health at risk, social isolation, disrupted work and routines, restlessness, and economic instability. The youth is part of the population who is mostly affected, nevertheless, they are also among the most active in community responses. Here are some roles which the youth took part in battling the pandemic.

Technology advancement paved way for the youth to harness strength of communication by using different platforms in social media to spread awareness backed by accurate information which gives opportunities to keep people safe, informed, and connected. Through reading from reliable websites, Generation Z can create infographics which they can post in their social media. As a result, this method will disseminate information about everything that the people need to learn about the virus, safety protocols, and staying updated with the news in the local sector. Using infographics as a means of disseminating information is not just eye catching but also the target population can easily spot the most important information by simply scanning it.

Through the use of social media platforms, the Generation Z may seek accountability from government officials and call their attention to answer the needs of the community like financial aids for those who lost their income, needs of the medical front liners, advocate free mass testing, proper news and policy dissemination, and vaccination schedules.
Since the pandemic hit the Philippines, strict health protocols have been implemented not just in our country, but in the whole world. It was mandated by WHO in order to contain the said virus, with that being said, everyone’s usual routine has been greatly affected. Thus, mental health problems were triggered by the isolation. The youth helped by reaching out to other people through local support groups that they created. Continuous love and support have been exhibited by the Generation Z, all these through the use of the different social media platforms.

In this continuous battle and that we may be still far from winning, the youth charged against the current and won the challenges that emerged in front of their eyes. Although they may not be seen on the streets, they have been doing their revolution just the same with the Millennials and Boomers – just virtually. They made sure that they are being heard, engaged, and empowered.

Reference: