

THE TEACHER ON THE CELLPHONE!

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Pandemic! COVID 19! Everyone feels stressed, fatigue, anxiety and moreover the whole world is looking for a cure. What makes it worse is that the educational system was affected by the pandemic, making online and distance learning modality a natural way of learning.

With this, Filipino families have to adapt by buying smart and android phones as it becomes the natural way of learning. The confusion between distance learning is now solved through the efforts of the Department of Education as well as to those who are actually involved in developing the new curriculum. Teachers and the young ones become engrossed by the so-called “online learning”.

Whatever platforms the school chooses, comes with the need of having cellphones, tablets, PCs, or even laptops. The teacher, amidst these changes, has to be aware and enhance their technological skills so that the children may become educated and civilized as they aspire to be. The main highlight is when the teacher is looked at by the students as part of the icons in the cellphone. Less touch, less physical empathy, less face to face because of the fear of the virus.

However, as the teacher is seen as part of the students’ iconic routine in the new normal. Teachers ask most of these questions: Do they (pertaining to students) really learn from me? Should I add more videos, PowerPoints, and animations to enhance the learning experience? How about the parents and guardian? Are they satisfying the students’ curiosity as they assist them in meeting educational qualifications?

With these things to ask, most teachers –even though they practice and are now skilled in teaching the students’ online, fear one thing: learning from their gadgets can never replace the teachers’ physical presence and the face to face interactions among the students in learning.

Amidst all the platitude of the pandemic stage along with the teachers, the government together with the stakeholders all over the world are doing all the best they can to pursue learning which was heavily paralyzed by the pandemic. The teachers are assisted to become equipped with the high and low technologies in continuing education. These strategies of merging enhance not just the quality of teaching but the resourcefulness of the teachers to become familiar and deliver quality services. Along with this, it is expected that the teachers may be able to help those students become fully aware of their capabilities as the teachers are given a new set of skills to unlock.

It is hoped by the teachers that one day, one morning, students will be able to play freely on the streets without any fear of the viruses, moreover, with the hands holding another, laughing, yelling with joy and running towards their teachers, physically, asking them to open the box of juices as well as giving them friendly smiles while jumping with joy and smelling the air. These are the horizons the teachers would like to feel and see again. Soon, after this pandemic, not just a teacher in the cellphone.

References:

Baron, M. et.al (2021) Paulette. (2020). The changing role of teachers and technologies amidst the COVID 19 pandemic: key findings from a cross-country study.

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/changing-role-teachers-and-technologies-amidst-covid-19-pandemic-key-findings-cross>.