

LESSON WE DID NOT LEARN UNTIL THE PANDEMIC

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It was more than a year since the pandemic has turned these days the most difficult and darkest times. For the first time in 29 years, our economy has crash-landed into recession, placing various livelihoods at risk (Reuters, 2020). However, above all the distressing impacts of the pandemic, on education was seemingly more historical.

Being the pillar of the development of every country, education was not exempted by the effects of this unprecedented pandemic. CoVid-19 pandemic has created the greatest disruption in the educational system in history (United Nations, 2020). Never before in the Philippine history have we put opening of classes on hold for a long time – four months if to count! In addition, never before have we seen millions of students unable to attend classes physically for face-to-face interactions were extremely prohibited in many parts of the country. Students are undeniably the most negatively affected individuals today. In spite of these, we should remember that we learn the best lessons in life during the most difficult times. Evidently, parents and teachers, who act as major figures in the educative process of students, received a very rare opportunity to learn lessons from this pandemic benefitting our students.

Parents today have a better understanding of how vital is working cooperatively with schools to promote the education of their children. Before, many parents often spend a day without asking much about how was their child's schooling. Some even ignore school invitations or quarterly PTA conferences. There may have been some who may have not known the name of their children's class adviser – that hurts! Today, they realize that they are actually a key figure in the education process of their children. Many parents

are equally struggling with their children in accompanying them in either modular, online or blended learning. It is also observable that they are now communicating with the school and seem to be more concerned to academic welfare of their children. They have a much bigger appreciation for teachers and what they do after experiencing how demanding and challenging the teacher's job is. They finally recognize that education of their children is never a sole responsibility of schools.

Likewise, teachers today have a better understanding of how vital is having digital skills in their toolkits. Traditionally, teachers interact with their students inside their classroom. It is where they exchange or share ideas, communicate or bring forth questions, and deliver lessons to their students. And speaking of delivery of lessons, more likely, plans for such were just recycled from previous years. However, this pandemic has required teachers to use innovation and creativity using digital technologies. Many teachers now have surfaced in the internet conducting discussions through some entertaining but academic video blogs. Some even conduct online classes to their respective students who are capable to access the internet. Highly engaging learning activity sheets and self-learning modules are prepared by teachers to address the different needs of different students. And whenever students have confusion, teachers are now just a chat away ready to provide extra guidance. They finally recognize that education of students is never accomplished with just a single skill or two.

Certainly, parents and teachers learned the best lessons during the pandemic. Since these major figures in fostering education learned much, we can expect that the future of our education will turn out well – good job!

References:

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