

LONG TERM IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

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The coronavirus pandemic changed the way we all live. It made such an impact that even the generations to come will feel the lingering effects of the catastrophic events brought about the covid-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 epidemic has had a huge influence on our globe, claiming the lives of millions of people. It has thrown businesses and educational institutions into disarray and robbed people of their livelihoods. Governments, organizations, and people have been obliged to adjust quickly and take measures in order to keep up on the rapid changes to adapt with the new normal.

The largest affected sector by the pandemic is undoubtedly the health sector. The suddenness and unpredictable surge of covid cases in the country, made us all realize how badly our health system is lacking. It brought to light the ungodly amount of working-hours health workers need to endure, as well as how unfair their wages are. It gave us a glimpse of what is happening in our public hospitals, how understaff and how it lacks in facilities. The issues regarding the health system were topics of controversies for years, but the severity of the pandemic highlighted it and projected it to mainstream media.

Now, movements are already being made to improve these issues. There are petitions for wage increase for health worker and regulations are being made for their working hours. The pandemic gave way to the skyrocketing ecommerce and online economy. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, people relied to online shopping for their basic needs like food and groceries. With the increase of online commerce transactions, delivery and currier services also become in demand.

During the lockdown, the prominence of restaurant meal delivery surged, raising concerns about what would happen to establishments once they could reopen. While conventional sit-down restaurants may face more challenges, some may be able to capitalize on the growing trend of 'experiential dining,' which includes eating in unusual locales, trying different concept kitchens, or even seeing a show while eating. Alongside, based on the popularity of restaurant meal deliveries, pop-up kitchens with no front of house or seats may soon emerge, relying solely on delivery services.

But among all the changes that the coronavirus pandemic brought, the most influential and the most impactful for the future, is hands down the digitalization of education.

Schools and other educational facilities and institutions are among the first to close down at the beginning of the pandemic due to the nature of how the virus spread. Covid is a contagious virus that can be spread through respiratory droplets expelled when coughing and even simply talking to others in close and unventilated areas, thus classrooms are extremely high risk environment. However, the educational sector refused to just take the blows laying down. They found ways to cope with the changes and restrictions by using remote schooling and online learning.

Although online education is already prevalent in other developed country, it is still a very new concept in the Philippines. Due to the dire need to continue education in the midst of the pandemic, the education system had to adapt to the changes, and fast.

Now, as the cases starts to dwindle a bit, the face to face classes are being spearheaded throughout the country, online education is still an option for high-risk individuals and those that are still afraid of contracting the virus.

The pandemic shook the whole planet. It changes not only the way our lives run on the daily, but also the way we all perceive the things that we though are mundane and

normal. It altered the trajectory of many peoples' future as we all deal with the loses and changes it brought.

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