

PHILIPPINE EDUCATION: STRIVING FOR THE FUTURE

by:

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The country has faced a lot of challenges amid the pandemic, COVID-19. It affected almost every aspect of the lives of Filipino people. We have lost a lot of lives and the country is still facing the challenges on public health, food systems and work. Many people lost their jobs and facilities including schools have closed in order to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

The pandemic has made the educators and students adapt to the new normal. Online and modular learning is used in order to continue the education without having to risk the health of people in these times. However, online learning has a lot of challenges to overcome. Many people believe that we are not ready in using online learning as substitute to traditional class. Having no proper training and poor internet connection are some of the reasons. Some students are also struggling to participate in online learning because of the absence of reliable internet access and gadgets. These made some students not continue schooling this year.

But what are the things we should to expect to happen on our country's education in the post-pandemic era? As we continue distance and online learning, Philippines is looking forward to going back to traditional campus learning in hope that the pandemic will soon be over. Educators are thinking of various solutions we could continually use to transform the way teachers teach and students learn.

Blended learning or hybrid classroom is one thing we could expect in the post-pandemic era. The country's education is expected to have a potential merge of traditional and digital way of learning. Learning with the face to face teaching layered with online and

digital tools is to be expected. These tools will most likely use to complement but not replace traditional learning. Utilization of technology will be needed to have a productive and evolving learning place.

We could also be expecting that online learning will continue and will be the norm. The country might not go back to traditional learning and online schooling will be recognized as the core of education in the future. Aside from flexibility and affordability, it also provides lots of excellent opportunity for learners. However, one drawback of online learning is that it may be difficult to keep students engaged, which plays a large factor in student success. The challenge is to make the students more engaged with online learning without having actual and face to face learning.

We are not sure with what's going to happen in the long term since COVID-19 is not over yet. We will still have more challenges to face and changes to expect. Learning comes in all shapes and students and teachers are expected to adapt with the changes. No matter the situation, the education in the Philippines will continue in the post-pandemic era. In order to have success in the different methods of learning and teaching, assessment of the capacity and well being of both students and teachers will be very much needed.

How do you think COVID-19 will shape the future of students and educators in the Philippines?

References:

<https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reopening-schools-safely>