

CONNECTING THE DOTS TO THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

by:

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The COVID-19 pandemic moved traditional education to an online format, which was a new state for both teachers and students. As a result of the current situation, technological integration in education is becoming more important, and teachers are encouraged to upgrade their skills.

This pandemic has caused enormous disruption in all aspects of human life, as can be witnessed around the world. Similarly, the educational sector faced numerous issues as institutional closure from schools to universities, and traditional education shifted to the online paradigm. According to UNESCO, around half of the world's student population was affected by the technological transition. As a result, the situation emphasizes the need of technology integration in education, and teachers must update their skills in order to provide excellent education and make necessary modifications to their curriculum and instruction. However, when it comes to the use of information, communication, and technology (ICT) in education, teachers and students are already familiar with traditional technological teaching aids like Video lessons and PowerPoint as their practical usability is necessary in teaching practices.

Furthermore, effective ICT integration is important for systematizing a successful online educational program. The effective use of ICT not only contributes to learners' satisfaction, but also assists the students in achieving their goals. As a result, implementing professional development programs to help teachers acquire capabilities in using ICT effectively in their pedagogical practices is very essential. However, due to the sudden pandemic crisis, teachers' professional training for the efficient use of ICT in

teaching was still insufficient, putting students in a difficult situation. As a result, teachers were under a lot of pressure to help students reach their educational goals. Despite teachers' best efforts to keep them learning, they faced various obstacles in embracing digital platforms for teaching, including lack of trainings, knowledge, and investment in modern technology.

The Philippines as a country would tremendously benefit from offering more high-tech learning tools to its students. It is critical for students to become familiar with technology at an early age, especially in growing countries like the Philippines because technology sparks many market opportunities. Unfortunately, that is not the current reality in impoverished sections of the country. Public education and technology are hard to offer, especially since majority of the population do not have the financial resources to avail online courses. Some of the schools have experienced a technological gap, which is caused by lack of e-learning resources and computers. Without the right resources, students in lower-income areas will not receive the same educational support as students from higher-income areas. By helping students and schools gain access to instructional technology, learners can acquire the education they deserve. Technological advancements have not only made our lives easier, but they have also enabled those who have access to these technologies to make significant educational progress, and every learner should be able to benefit from these advancements.

References:

The Importance of Technology in Education in the Philippines (childhope.org.ph)

The Philippines Upgrades Technology for Online Classrooms – OpenGov Asia