

SOCIAL MEDIA: RESHAPING PANDEMIC'S NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

by:

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The onset of the Presidential Declaration of a lockdown or commonly known as Community Quarantine in the Philippines on March 16, 2020, made a vast change. As COVID 19 pandemic affected all aspects of the society, it affected greatly all educational systems in the world wherein the traditional classroom set-up was altered instantly.

Face-to-face learning was stopped, and online, blended, flexible, homeschooling, modular, asynchronous, synchronous, and technology-aided learning instantaneously surface into the trend. And due to the continuous rise of positive COVID-19 cases in the Philippines, the government, through the Department of Education, implemented various policies to advocate the use of alternative modalities in delivering lesson content from the basic education to higher education institutions. COVID-19 forced the teachers and academic institutions to revolutionize and prepare their classrooms' set-up that can support online and distance learning or also known as "New Normal Teaching."

Using of social media in teaching enables collaborative and interactive learning to happen, wherein teachers will create a Facebook Group, Google Classroom, and Group Chat in Messenger, and add the students that belong to their respective classes.

Social media is not a utility. It is not like power or water where what people care about is whether it works or not. As stated by Tria (2020), "Young people care about what using one program or another says about them."

Using Facebook, Google Classroom and Group Chat in Messenger can be used as an alternative learning management system. Hence teachers, being the moderators of the

created group can upload content, be it a file, text, link, or text correlated to their topic. They may also go "On-Live" to virtually share his or her presentation through the Zoom Meeting application. Synchronous learning is definite to happen wherein the prompt comments, reactions, and emojis may also be demonstrated to initiate interaction among students belonging to the same group, and their live comments and emojis during the online sharing of video lecture of their teacher will cause the latter to respond immediately to the student's questions and instantly comprehend the emojis of his or her learners.

Likewise, the posts in the social media group are arranged according to their date, and the live videos and uploaded videos may be visited and downloaded by the students to be used as additional learning resources and to better understand the unfinished content. Therefore, integrating these social media and be used as virtual classroom setup, and utilizing its social media group feature can be used as more accessible, more flexible, cheaper, and more convenient ways to deliver lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Social Media can become an alternative learning management system while reducing the costs, anxiety among teachers and students, improve the delivery mechanisms and discover alternative ways to provide virtual learning without pressuring students to pressure themselves to learn.

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