

WE MADE IT! WE SURVIVED!

by:

Katherine L. Gregana

Teacher I, Mariveles National High School - Malaya

The havoc of COVID 19 resulted in the death toll, sickness, full capacities of hospitals and health facilities, loss of employment, sudden halt in education, limited resources of foods and accessibility to health care, closure of many establishments and other unfortunate events. Days went on to years as the pandemic passed by. The world suffered but the people continued to live their lives. Seeing what is left, is the hope and perseverance of the many people around the world. Everyone got up and moved on to continue fighting the struggles that COVID 19 has done to mankind. Unfortunately, this pandemic is still not over. The Coronavirus disease is still affecting people's health and lives up to the present time. Cases may be too low now, nevertheless, this disease continues. Restrictions may be less strict, but a lot of health protocols are still in place. In 2021, shifts from the hard to minimum restrictions were observed. More establishments re-open. Chances of business and work commence. People can go out for some reason aside from the "essential" concerns. The education system continues to enhance and make up as schools started to go back to the limited face-to-face setup. Consequently, stakeholders are delighted to see as these developments embark.

With the re-opening of the schools for the school year 2021-2022, learners and teachers began to see each other again in person after two (2) years. Face-to-face classes are now for real. But, since the lockdowns of 2020, blended learning took place in the Philippine education system. Modular learning, online classes, and other distance learning methods are still observed. So how are these different modes of delivery carried out by teachers within the same classes? This is where the flexibility, endurance, and perseverance of teachers take part. Flexible to prepare lessons not just for the face-to-

face classes but also for the modular and online classes. Flexible to adjust and wait for the learners to submit their outputs despite deadlines. More so, teachers can endure the threat of the virus as they go on home visitations, issuance and retrieval of outputs, and other allied activities in exigency of service. Enduring the fear of getting sick or being inflicted with the virus when they got home and infecting their loved ones was also thought of. But in the end, the persistence of the people brought us all back to reality and embrace the things that were not conceived before. The unimaginable factors that were not seen before are now happening. Teachers are accustomed to the face-to-face setup, but this pandemic taught us, teachers, to be flexible and be much more considerate to our learners. No one was ever prepared for this occurrence; however, we accepted the challenge to be in this noble profession. We hold on to making the lives of the learners change for the better that is why we patiently encompass doing the different modes of delivery to the same classes that we have – modular, face-to-face, and online. The realization of getting tired and exhausted doing these things simultaneously did not tear us apart. Rather, the thought of being able to be of service to our learners in this difficult time reminded us to continue our oath to the nation. We may also say that we incorporate the two (2) admirable traits of Filipinos - faith, and optimism. Our faith never failed to remind us that there is God who will be with us no matter what. Just keep believing! Optimism keeps us going because we believe that in the end, no one looks back and goes back because it will hinder us from moving forward. Instead, we should strive hard and survive the battle we are all into. Finally, we can say, “We made it! We Survived!”.

References:

Lacsamana, B., (2021), As blended education becomes the norm, PHL should strengthen distance learning modalities – DepEd UNICEF. Business World.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/health/2021/12/15/417508/as-blended-education-becomes-the-norm-phl-should-strengthen-distance-learning-modalities-deped->

unicef/#:~:text=The%20choices%20include%20modular%20(printed,learning%20modal
ity%20for%20their%20children.

depedbataan.com
The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan