

IN THE LENS OF AN EDUCATOR: NEW NORMAL AND NEXT-TO NORMAL

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The COVID-19 pandemic became an alarm that signaled the Education Sector to innovate the teaching and learning process to cope with the pressing demands in the new education system. The old setup was long gone but was superseded by the new normal setup in education.

Bozkurt and Sharma (2020) mentioned that the perspectives of the old normal, new normal, and next-to normal vary for every individual. What can be claimed as new normal to one educator may be considered as an old normal to another educator. Moreover, Cahapay (2020) specified that the Department of Education needs to reassess the education system in terms of the challenges and the opportunities that were brought into light due to the presence of the pandemic.

In this connection, the next-to normal came into the picture. Pacheco (2021) said that the New Normal is dominated by massive technologization while Xie et al (2020) stressed that advanced technological platforms will still be utilized in the next-to-normal era.

In our country, the transition from the old normal to the new normal experienced a birthing pain when teachers from both the private and public sectors first encountered the use of technological platforms in blended and online teaching. The gaps in the generations of teachers in terms of using the digital skills were among the problems faced during the first year of the implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan as mandated by DepEd Order No 12 s. 2020.

References:

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