

## LEADING AMID PANDEMICS

by:

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The role of the school principal is complex and challenging. It entails school improvement, managing demands, attending to the needs of stakeholders, and ensuring that the school is well-provided of all basic things to smoothly operate. With all these challenges that are already tasking, here comes the pandemic.

The impact of the COVID 19 did not only add to the already tough responsibilities a school principal has on his plate but created a whole lot more in the change of how things work. With a virus invisible to the eye, a school principal is like groping in the dark when the pandemic started. The delivery of quality education is first and foremost but how can it be done in the middle of the halt of what is normal?

As the new modality of learning was born, the successful delivery is the uphill every school has faced. During these trying times, the school principal has yet added a new role to his plate – leading amid pandemics. The call is to stay resilient, recalibrate the moves, and ensure that every child is not left behind.

The impact of the pandemic is a continuous disruption to the teaching-learning process. The assessment of learning was futile yet needs to be analyzed to truly calculate what a pupil has and has not learned among all subject areas. The modules and computer have become the center of teaching and learning. The school principal had to lead remotely and virtually while taking actions to manage crisis day in and day out. Distribution of leadership must be effective and efficient while maintaining good relationship with the school personnel and the stakeholders even through online connections. It is tough on how to build relationships in a non-face-to-face setting.

Eventually, as the pandemic eases, it reinforced how the demands for school leaders are unyielding and volatile. In fact, the demands have put a great toll not only physically but mentally and psychologically as well. Thereby, the role of the school leader has been proven critically important in supporting continuity of learning. The challenge kept on going until the pandemic is truly cleared out. However, the call is renewed. To become resilient and flexible that no matter what happens, the school leader shall stand up and do what needs to be done to guarantee that quality learning takes place no matter what.

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