

**PREPAREDNESS AND CHALLENGES OF THE NEW NORMAL:
FILIPINO STUDENTS' OPINIONS ON ONLINE LEARNING**

by:

Rosemelinda II M. Black

Teacher III, Payangan Integrated School

The Covid-19 pandemic greatly affected the education sector within the Philippines. From the standard face-to-face classroom teaching-learning, schools shifted to flexible learning and virtual classrooms; where learners and educators must hurdle numerous difficulties like resources, curriculum revisions, and problems in internet connectivity. this is often a serious concern because the Philippines ranked 77 among the countries with the slowest and least stable Internet connection in the world. This collaborative research among different colleges and universities within the Philippines explored the prevailing concerns of virtual classroom learning to return up with a program that benefits learners and educators within the country. Utilizing descriptive-correlational design, a web survey using Google Form was conducted within the respondent schools after the implementation of virtual learning. a complete of two,444 students from different levels, private and government schools of varying ages and sex participated through snowballing data-gathering technique. Results revealed that the respondents' considered themselves physically prepared, but they were not psychological-emotionally and financially prepared in their virtual classroom learning. the scholars experienced challenges in terms of teacher, curriculum, and resource factors. the scholars perceived that almost all teachers are unaware that learners differ in terms of capabilities in online learning; thus, they like a student-friendly curriculum; and they suggested that the potential of scholars to own appropriate gadgets and internet connectivity should be looked into by the educators. Significant differences were established between the profile characteristics and preparedness and challenges experienced by the scholars in their virtual classroom learning. Furthermore, the

preparedness and challenges experienced in virtual learning by the respondents are significantly correlated. A proposed program that benefits the scholars and educators was designed as an output of this research which is suggested for implementation in government and personal schools within the Philippines.

References:

Vitales, V. A., Aquino, K. J. M., De Leon, E. F., Lacap, P. P., Maranan, S. S., & Duldulao, J. J. (2021). Preparedness and challenges of the new normal: perspectives of Filipino students in virtual learning. *Technium Social Sciences Journal*, 23(1), 199–211.
<https://doi.org/10.47577/tssj.v23i1.4283>