

## THE NEW LEADERSHIP

*by:*

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The pandemic caught us all off-guard. With it comes a new leadership order without preparation or development program. There were no ready framework and benchmarks. There was no blueprint prepared to help school leaders cope readily in its onset.

Leadership practice is not the same as when it was during the stable and relatively calm period. A new measure for determination and reliability is to be defined and followed. The goal is to safeguard quality education and to deliver it at all costs.

Even there was a lack of research on how school leaders should respond to the pandemic, some emerging insights came to life. Here are some propositions:

Principles of good leadership is a constant such as having a clear vision and mission of the school, consistently managing, and developing people's capacities, and building capabilities. Context responsive leadership is a must.

Re-think and recalibrate trainings and programs provided to school leaders. The program should aspire for adequacy, resiliency, and flexibility amid any situation, expected or not.

School leaders should be concerned of self-care and consideration. One cannot give what one does not have. The pandemic has caused significant effects to the mental and well-being of school's leaders and teachers, thus self-care is an important priority.

Connectivity is essential. Being well-informed and technology savvy are crucial. However, pedagogy remains the key to effective learning while human dimension is the key to effective teaching.

Crisis management is fundamental to operate an effective school in disruptive times. Consistent crisis and change management trainings and practices should be engaged upon and observed. Handling crisis as it rises is a part of the daily tasks of a school leader.

Forge strong community relations and partnerships. Collaboration is the key to successfully deal with the impacts of COVID-19 especially for vulnerable and marginalized learners.

Distributed leadership is crucial in crisis. There is a need for collaboration, creativity, and responsive leadership in the school, thus distributed leadership among the school personnel is necessary to survive.

Leading in troublesome period means being able to traverse a different course, to create new routes through the disturbance. If there is another blessing in disguise the pandemic has brought, in the aspect of leadership, it is this new leadership.

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