THE IMPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL DIVIDE IN EDUCATION

by:
Teresa A. Layug
Teacher I

The digital divide pertains to a gap between people who can access high-tech technology. The capability and capacity of an individual to access digital media and technology differs and varies, and we call digital divide. Inclined with this, the emergence of inequality in access to technology is vividly eminent in every society and locality. A few of the influencing factors to the digital divide include poverty and poor infrastructure, corruption, bureaucracy, and education and technical support. We're currently going through a pandemic where the education sector imposed new normal learning of online and modular education modes with the current situation. With this, technology usage is a must for students and educators to cope and survive in this pandemic situation.

Inclined with the digital divide issue, influencing features such as low literacy and profits levels, geographical boundaries, lack of motivation to use technology, lack of physical access to technology, and digital illiteracy contribute to the digital divide. We can infer that most students and educators are experiencing or currently undergoing one of these factors with these contributing factors. In addition, as we are in Covid 19, where learners need access to technology, this became a problem as many students can't access any technology-related requirements in the new normal. As a result, this produces different effects and impacts on education. The role of the digital divide in education is significant. The digital divide has affected individual students in coping with online learning and groups of students across any localities, leading to lower academic outcomes of low-income, underserved students and districts that are susceptible and cannot access

digital technology. Not all students and teachers can afford to access technology, and not all of them are familiar and can appropriately use technology for their own needs.

With the implications and impacts of the digital divide, we can imply that this is a central problem, specifically that we're currently going through the implementation of new normal where digital media and high tech technology are means of communication and an essential requirement to survive in the education sector. It became a problem and a barrier to everyone, dividing us from those who can access digital media and those who can't. Suppose there is a problem with the digital divide, and we're currently under the new normal of the online class. How about those who can't access any technology-related requirements? The electricity? Internet connection and many more? Education is for everyone, and no one should be left behind or be exclusive of education rights. We must provide awareness and solutions for this kind of problem and allow equality for everyone. We should also think of the state of the others and don't just ignore them just because the majority are doing well and has the capacity and capability of using technology.

References:

Digital Divide the Pros and Cons. http://www.digitaldividecouncil.com/digital-divide-the-pros-and-cons/

Digital Divide in Education. https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/digital-divide-in-education