

NEW NORMAL IN EDUCATION AND THE POST PANDEMIC CONCERNS

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Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new normal in education has been the focus. The struggle against the COVID-19 epidemic had far-reaching consequences and repercussions in practically every aspect of human life. As a result, there has been considerable disruption, including travel restrictions. During the pandemic crisis and even in the post-pandemic era, the dominant discourse favors online education as the new normal. The outbreak of COVID-19 had posted a great shift in the education sector affecting greatly millions of learners and the delivery of learning. Nonetheless, this startling figure alone cannot convey the severity of the pandemic's educational implications.

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Various countries around the world had adopted several practices to assure the continuity of learning among children around the world. Remedies such as community lockdown and community quarantine have been used in the past. Several countries have encouraged students and teachers to study and work in their own countries. Moreover, several learning modalities were adopted to guarantee the learning of children even in a remote setting. The adoption of learning modalities ensures the safety and health security of learners even at home which results in the creation of online learning platforms, whereas online learning had been the major channel to deliver learning remotely paving to the “New Normal” set-up. During the pandemic and even in the post-pandemic era, the dominant narrative favors online education as the new normal.

Now that levels of community restrictions had been lifted as cases dropped in areas around the country. Schools had started to resume face-to-face classes with observance and compliance of health protocols this is to ensure the safety of learners within the school perimeter. As schools and communities gradually opened for learning, several adjustments and concerns were being taken into consideration in this post-pandemic time in the learning of children.

Student life is the total opposite of so-called social distance, thus in the post-pandemic time, educational institutions such as schools and universities will have implemented measures such as shifting classes, enhancing online lessons, and canceling group activities such as sports. Annual functions, as well as building and transportation sanitization daily. The concept of a school as a physical structure has changed. This necessitates broad and thorough modifications to procedures and protocols.

There is a combination of home, classroom, and virtual learning. It must be ensured, however, that pupils at home learn in parallel with those in classrooms.

Most teachers believe that educational activities should be structured to reduce crowding and to avoid large gatherings such as PTA meetings, get-togethers, sports days, and annual functions.

As online education had been a trend during the onset and post-pandemic times, the utilization of digital learning had also created issues including the digital divide in which E-learning has been shown to be a hassle for students in the lower middle class and those who are living in poverty, even while it benefits higher and middle-class students.

In addition, the implementation of community restrictions had limited movement and interaction thus affecting the mental health of learners. Long home confinement reduces the children's dealings and communications affecting learning as well. A great number of pupils might have experienced post-traumatic stress brought by the pandemic.

Many pupils have spent hours gazing at cellphones or playing electronic games, and the learning divide between youngsters from better-off and poorer parents will expand.

Understanding the changes in the structure, routine, and system in the learning delivery and practices during these post-pandemic times will help us realize and appreciate the advancements and best practices that suit the present learning system. Covid-19 has demonstrated the extent to which inequities are utilized by various educational systems. As a result, renewed commitments to the synergy between the commercial and governmental sectors are required. In the sector of education in this setting, it is necessary to make education a public good, and digital innovation can assist in this endeavor.

References:

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