

## PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE STATUS QUO

by:

**Arjay A. Alarcon**

*Teacher II, Justice Emilio Angeles Gancayco Memorial High School*

Who would never forget the struggles that we experienced caused by the enemy that we cannot see? Extreme anxiety, stress, and any words that can describe how we are afraid of getting the virus. Many would say that our world has flipped in an instant and no one has withstood the ravaging effects of Covid.

Since time immemorial, our country's education system has been facing a lot of problems and amidst this pandemic, it just makes itself worst and has tested its survival.

Aside from leaning towards health and economy, one of the primordial concerns of our government is the education sector. The government has come up and made some efforts in shifting the education system into remote distant learning during the pandemic which poses risk to students' learning ability and mental health. Adjustment became a very big problem for them, from the traditional face-to-face classes to online, television, radio, and printed materials. All had sacrificed a lot because of the adjustments, starting from accessibility to said setup like having a gadget to use or problems on transporting the modules to their student's home and problems as well as on the internet connectivity are only a few of the said problems.

A study conducted by the Unesco Global Education Monitoring Report revealed that there was a significant decline in the country's ranking of having a quality education in 2021 we are 55th which is three steps down from being 52nd in 2020 on a list of 77. It showed that moving into distant learning greatly impacts the student's learning.

Students were the one who is greatly affected because of this shift, they become needy socially and emotionally which also influences the way they learn which is not present because of distance learning which as well all know schools does not only hone our intellectual capabilities but also our social and emotional side as well.

Now, with the easing numbers of contracting the virus because of the availability of vaccines to everyone, the Philippine Education Department is mandating to bring back face-to-face classes to every school, which also attaches two important questions; Is the government ready for this? Are the students ready for the new adaptation? We already have flawless laws, and everyone is hoping that the implementation will not all go to waste because by the end of a day a single fracture in the implementation of it will affect all of us and this should be a challenge to the government to have a keened eye protecting the students and improving the quality of education.

The covid-19 pandemic has altered the way we see the world, and a lot has changed. As well all know change is inevitable, and coping skills are the only key for us to move forward and conquer these changes. Social and emotional support is a basic need for students' mental health and should be a priority not just for the government but for each one of us.

#### *References:*

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