

## THE VIRUS IN ICT

*by:*

**Nathaniel C. Sebastian**

*Teacher II, Pagalangang National High School*

In hybrid education, students need to adapt to the perpetually changing system of instruction delivery – a transition from face-to-face classes to online modality, which goes then back to face-to-face classes yet incorporated with numerous digital teaching and learning innovations. As a consequence, students' exposure to technology is increasing day by day, more so in acquiring viruses.

Metaphorically speaking, viruses in computers and in human, in terms of their ability to contaminate and cause a detrimental effect, can penetrate the students' mind and soon weakens their ability to filter the information they are acquiring. This is widely known as, the fake news. This virus provides erroneous information, commonly through the digital communication process which usually occur in the new scheme of delivery of instruction to the learners, where their exposure increases their vulnerability to access all the information regardless of accuracy and validity.

Indeed, this virus brings a greater challenge to the learners and teachers to become more strict and wiser in sharing and acquiring information online to avoid being infected by this virus. Teachers, as facilitator of learning, need to take preventive actions while integrating the use of digital platforms in providing information. The health, in terms of increasing knowledge acquisition, must be taken care of. First, wear a mask of intelligence and mastery to protect the learner from harmful and false information they can obtain from the internet. Second, always cleanse the mind once exposed and look for resources and pieces of evidence to have a stronger immunity. Lastly, distance yourself from people who are frequently twisting information to make it plausible.

A virus is truly contagious. Being information-literate is therefore a must in accessing and maximizing the use of Information, Communication, and Technology. Stay away from this virus, and so, others will also be protected.

*References:*

Unpacking Fake News pp. 5-9 (5 pages) | link:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep17648.5>

Social Media – From Social Exchange to Battlefield | link:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26267344>