

WHAT HAS COVID-19 BROUGHT INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

by:

Julie Ann B. Lingal

Teacher I, Wawa Elementary School

For the past two years, we have been talking about the effects and hazards that the COVID-19 virus has spread all over the globe. Countries in the world have been greatly affected, especially those belonging to the Third World.

We have seen how schools closed, how businesses shut down, how many people and families have been turned jobless and homeless (because they cannot sustain renting a house anymore).

Throughout the world, the effects and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic are hardly comparable to any of the disasters we have been used to all our lives, like earthquakes, typhoons, floods, tornados, among others.

Earthquakes may last from a few seconds to a few minutes and destruction can be varied depending on the magnitude and intensity.

Typhoons and floods are disastrous depending on the speed of the wind, amount of rainfall, and duration.

With God's grace, these disasters have not been that catastrophic. Effects, injuries, and losses have been isolated depending on the spot where these disasters strike. Thank God.

However, things were different with the coronavirus. With the simple virus that started with one or two or a few people, it has been able to infect thousands of people in just a few minutes or hours.

Since the deadly virus was first discovered sometime in January 2020, various statistical reports have reflected its great effect on mankind. It has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of people both young and old alike – in different economic strata. It has caused many businesses unimaginable losses in money and property - which has left many of these companies to shut down if not declare bankruptcy.

If we have agencies or offices in the government in charge of disaster risk reduction and management, it would be better if pandemics like that of COVID-19 were taken as a really great risk, so they could be made part of the risk reduction and management program.

According to the study entitled, “New Realization of Disaster Risk Reduction Education in the Context of the Global Pandemic: Lessons from Japan”, COVID-19 has caused new challenges along with breaks in the educational field. The influence of the closure of schools during the pandemic resulted in learning losses and gaps, increasing dropouts, malnutrition, and learning without focus.

The long duration of isolation and social distancing preventing children/learners from socializing with other kids has affected them in such a way that more children become timid and not so ready for everyday conversation with other people.

The exposure of learners to various online platforms during the teaching and learning process may have given them a different perspective on learning – that learning can be done while doing other things while in an online class with your camera turned off; that learning can be easy if you just say you are tired, and your parents or other family members will do the activities in the self-learning modules (SLM's) for you.

It is time that risk reduction for pandemics such as COVID-19 also formed part of the information advocacy related to disaster risk reduction.

References:

New Realization of Disaster Risk Reduction Education in the Context of a Global
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