

## **PUBLIC TEACHERS: A CHALLENGE TO ERADICATE CHILDREN'S ILLITERACY AMIDST PANDEMIC**

*by:*

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Since the outbreak of the pandemic in mid-March 2020, only a few schools in the country have returned to in-person teaching and the administration had steered face-to-face schooling in public schools, but in a partial scope as COVID-19 continued to rear most its ugly head. According to UNICEF that even pre-pandemic more than half of the 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income nations were incapable to read or understand a simple story – today that number is assessed to be as high as 70 percent because of almost 20 weeks of closed-classroom policy nationwide after the outbreak last 2 years ago.

The chain effect of school closures could be astounding and stroked far outside education. In addition to lost learning, school closures withdraw children from the benefits of their security, well-being, sustenance, and overall welfare provided by schools. World bank said that the Philippines resisted studying remotely, crashing learning poverty in the country to a new high of 90 percent this year because of the pandemic which forced people, especially learners to stay home.

These will be stressful yet challenging tasks for teachers on how they will be able to eradicate the rising number of illiterate learners during a pandemic. This will be a big challenge in how learning amid the pandemic can also be enjoyable and fulfilling for young learners. Either during online classes or partial face-to-face teachers should provide opportunities for learners to converse texts, improving suitable language for meaningful conversation.

One of the utmost challenges for teachers of literacy is guaranteeing that learners have the understanding strategies wanted to manage in the increasingly multifaceted world of print have placed a growing prominence on making learners prepared for the difficulties of texts they will experience both in and out of school today. We need to support learners develop the endurance and flexibility that comes from connecting them to challenging activities and responsibilities where they read and write for unique and true purpose.

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