

TRANSITION TO LEARNING MODALITIES: A CHALLENGE TO LEARNERS

by:

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Only if we embrace new things will then enable us to survive the present situation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the spread of the Corona virus worldwide on March 11, 2020. It was a huge challenge for the country to deal with the series of changes that occurred during the peak of COVID-19. Education was one of the areas greatly affected by this global pandemic. In the Philippines, students were forced to be on a long vacation as the Department of Education was still deciding on what learning modality would be administered in schools while seeking solutions for the rapid spread of the deadly disease.

On October 5, 2020, as approved by former President Rodrigo Duterte when the opening of the class for the school year 2020–2021 was announced and distance learning was applied. Modular distance learning and online classes were the most commonly adopted learning modes in both public and private schools. It was difficult for the students to cope during this period of transition, as they were previously using chalk and board with their teachers assisting, facilitating, and teaching them inside classrooms. Students, especially those who do not have internet access, were not able to attend their online classes. Many of the students found it hard to comprehend the lessons from the learning modules. These are some of the problems encountered by the students during the two years of adjusting to this kind of setting.

In 2022, when almost everyone was vaccinated, DepEd announced that the progressive expansion of face-to-face classes may start on February 9, 2022. Learners were once again adjusted to the new approach and mode of learning then schools began to open.

Eventually, in the academic year 2022-2023, all students were required to return to school, but in a new normal setting. It has been a chain of challenges, but still, learners manage to adjust and adapt. "The secret to change is to focus all your efforts not on battling the old but on developing the new," the Greek philosopher Socrates reportedly stated.

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