

## CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN THE NEW NORMAL

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The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about significant changes to the way we live, work, and learn. One of the most affected sectors is education, particularly in terms of classroom management in public schools in the Philippines. With the shift to remote learning and the gradual return to face-to-face classes, educators are facing new challenges in maintaining order and discipline in their classrooms.

One of the biggest challenges in classroom management during the pandemic is the lack of physical presence of the teacher. Remote learning, which has become the norm for many students, has made it difficult for educators to monitor their students' behavior and engagement in class. This has led to issues such as students not paying attention, not completing assignments, and not following instructions. Furthermore, the lack of face-to-face interaction has made it challenging for teachers to establish a positive classroom culture and build relationships with their students.

Another challenge is the lack of technology and resources for remote learning. Not all students have access to the internet or a computer, which makes it difficult for them to participate in online classes. This has led to a digital divide among students, with those who have access to technology having an advantage over those who do not. Additionally, some students may not have a conducive learning environment at home, which can further hinder their ability to learn effectively.

The return of face-to-face classes in the Philippines has also brought new challenges for educators in terms of classroom management. The implementation of social distancing measures, such as reducing the number of students in a classroom, has made it harder for teachers to monitor their students' behavior. Furthermore, the use of

face masks and face shields has made it difficult for teachers to read facial expressions and nonverbal cues, which can be important indicators of students' engagement and understanding.

Moreover, the health and safety protocols in the school have added to the stress of teachers and students. The strict implementation of health protocols such as temperature taking, wearing of mask and face shield, and frequent sanitation can be time-consuming and stressful for both students and teachers. The fear of getting infected and the fear of spreading the virus can also cause anxiety and stress among students, which can affect their ability to learn.

Remedies were proposed to address these hindrances. One of these is the use of technology to enhance remote learning. This includes providing students with laptops or tablets, and investing in reliable internet connectivity. Additionally, teachers can use online platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams to conduct classes, which allows them to monitor their students' engagement and behavior.

Another solution is to provide teachers with training and support on how to effectively use technology in their classrooms. This includes training on how to use online platforms and tools, as well as how to create engaging and interactive lessons. Furthermore, providing teachers with professional development opportunities on how to adapt to the new normal can help them better manage their classrooms.

In addition, the school administrators should consider providing mental health support to both students and teachers. This includes counseling services, stress management programs, and other mental health resources to help them cope with the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about new challenges in classroom management in public schools in the Philippines. With the shift to remote learning and the gradual return to face-to-face classes, educators are facing new

challenges in maintaining order and discipline in their classrooms. To address these challenges, solutions such as the use of technology, teacher training and support, and mental health support have been proposed. By addressing these challenges, we can ensure that students receive the best education possible, despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

*References:*

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