

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19 IMPACT ON PHILIPPINE EDUCATION

by:

Jeanette F. Jimenez

Teacher III, Magsaysay National High School

It is evident that COVID-19 pandemic has caused our country and the world academic challenges and disruption of what we think is “normal” school set-up. We are all caught up in uncertainty and major adjustments in how we learn and deliver education system. Several studies have been made to show the impact of studying from home and the effect of several lockdowns in the mental well-being and shift in the quality of life of both students and teachers for more than two years. Most of the students and teachers faced ICT difficulties including internet connection sustainability. This is the reason why schools provide modules to students so they can keep up with the lessons. Others are not comfortable interacting online using video cameras. Work and studying spaces are usually inadequate due to the sudden shift in the academic world. Social and digital inequality was also intensified because deprived families cannot provide what their children need in school unlike privileged families. Both parents and students had to find ways to meet the needs of the sudden bump in our education system.

One of the strands that suffered in the delivery of lessons and new ways of learning are the ones in need of hands-on laboratory experience like Science and Technology students. Theory learning is okay as long as there’s an area for hands on science activities that can be achieved through genuine experiments. During the pandemic, google classrooms were also utilized to provide a diverse strategy for learners. You can do experiments remotely. Videos of lessons are being updated left and right. Synchronous and Asynchronous set-up are utilized in school. Teachers are trying to balance the mode of delivery so limited stress can be added to the already given situation. Lesson learned by the Department of

Education and students' experiences of remote delivery for the past 2 years will sharpen students' expectations of learning, teaching, mode of delivery apart from the traditional education. Education did not stop despite the many hazards brought by COVID-19 virus.

As evolved individuals, we were able to adjust and adapt to the given situation. This is clear evidence as to why homo sapiens lasted until now and did not become extinct. Education delivery became more flexible and accessible. Despite the uncertainty brought about by this virus wildfire, despite the uncertainty brought about by COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the Department of Education, stakeholders, and the teachers have proven that our learning and teaching methods are ready to evolve into a more up to date version in the 21st century. Our pandemic experience has given us a new light. Once we have seen what lies under the light, we cannot accept to be in the dark anymore.

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