

REOPENING OF CLASSES: CONTINUOUS EDUCATION REFORM

by:

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After more than two years of doing modular and distance learning, finally, Philippines opened its schools again for face-to-face classes. We are one of the last countries to resume face-to-face learning. In relation to the number of years that we did not have normal delivery of lessons, we are somewhat scared or worried that it worsened the status of our students that can lead to education crisis.

Lagging in terms of learning competencies would mean students have a humongous of catching up to do. Prior to the pandemic, Philippines ranked one of the lowest in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). 9 out of 10 Filipino children could not read a simple text with comprehension. Our Mathematics and Science are also on the brink of downfall.

Department of Education and the government have made policies and additional protocols to ensure safety of the students, teaching and non-teaching personnel. School had to be ready to accommodate face-to-face learning again. Schools and classrooms had undergone modification to fit the safety criteria. Vaccination was also highly encouraged.

Despite the grueling preparation for the face-to-face classes, problems in our education system persist. We have outdated teaching methods and resources, lack of basic infrastructure, large class sizes not conducive in one room, and other difficulties like poverty. One institution cannot change society overnight. Some problems are rooted since the Spanish times. Hundreds of years of oppression have made our society backwards and docile. We are literally clueless on what real education is and should be.

COVID-19 pandemic is definitely an eye opener for most. In the 21st century, adapting to change can also mean evolution of our species. Other countries have been dabbling other means to deliver lessons and improve information retention. We are far behind most countries. It seems we settled that we are used to doing even in Education. Now, it is high time for an education reform that is recent and revolutionary.

Is it too late to catch up? Definitely not. Just like any other intelligence, every country is unique to its own. Therefore, now may be the right time to accept that we do need an Education Reform. We don't need to copy from other countries. It should be personalized to our culture and need of the Filipinos. At the end of the day, the future of our country lies deep in how we educate our future leaders and workers.

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