

## TEACHING IN A POST-PANDEMIC ERA

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Teaching is probably one of the most demanding vocations in the world. It requires teachers to dedicate their time and effort to deliver quality instruction. It requires patience and understanding. Kaieteur News through Professor Samad (2011) emphasized that teaching is the most demanding profession because real teachers never stop teaching. Then suddenly COVID-19 shocked the whole world that led to the closure of schools for at least two years.

Since in-person classes are now resumed and students are back in school, teachers are experiencing different problems when it comes to the delivery of the lessons. One of the visible problems, even among junior high school students is that some have difficulty in reading. Some students are hard to read sentences and phrases, and even simple words. This situation adds to the teachers' concern because they are worried that the students will not understand the lesson.

Another evident problem, there are some students take more time to execute simple instructions. During the activity, they do not know what to do even if you explained well what they need to be done. Teachers need to repeat the instruction and need further elaboration on the task.

In addition, teachers also encounter problems in basic Mathematics. Some students didn't know how to add and subtract numbers with decimals and fractions. Similarly, some students have a hard time converting percentages into a fraction. These situations in Mathematics can affect students' performance in subjects or competencies where they must perform mathematical operations.

Teachers may be dealing with repeated problems that were clear when there was no pandemic, and now they are doubling their efforts to help learners cope with the lessons. But the concern of most teachers is focused on the behavior of the learners. Orientation was held to discuss the do's and don'ts to the students while they are inside the school. However, as in-person classes continue, teachers witnessed how learners are shouting and making noise in the corridor while there were ongoing classes. Teachers have to call the attention of these students because they were disturbing the former's class. Also, some teachers have noticed that there are other students who did not ask permission before going outside the classroom to talk to other students. These behaviors are unbecoming, cause disturbance to the teachers' discussion, and should not be tolerated.

Teaching in a post-pandemic period is very challenging and sometimes frustrating as more problems arise due to the long break from in-person activities. On the report of the World Bank in 2021, teachers are in an unprecedented situation in which they must make up for the substantial loss of instructional time from the past school year and teach the present year's curriculum. Students are also experiencing learning loss due to school closure. That is why teachers are looking for new materials and strategies to catch the attention of the learners and get them back on track with learning.

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