

HYBRID LEARNING: IN A PUBLIC-SCHOOL TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

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Embracing the new normal in education can be a challenge, but it is a crucial step towards ensuring that students continue to learn and grow in an ever-changing world. With the ongoing pandemic, traditional classroom settings have been replaced with online learning and hybrid models, forcing educators and students to adapt to new ways of teaching and learning. While this transition may seem daunting, the opinion of most of the public-school teachers are somehow divided.

Hybrid teaching is an educational model in which some students attend a lecture or seminar in-person as normal, while others join virtually from home. (Oxford University, 2023)

Hybrid teaching may be tasking. Philippine Public School Teacher's workload is no joke. They teach, they do paper works, clerical work, sometimes even dirty work. This new mode would mean additional workload too, which means teachers must prepare two sets of lessons for a day, one for the online and one for the in-face students, in some cases some are required to cater to online learners while doing an in-person class.

However, looking at the other side of the coin, there are also good reasons why hybrid learning can be considered.

Hybrid teaching opens many doors of opportunities. Since this is a new way of delivering knowledge, this presents an opportunity to explore innovative teaching methods, technologies, and collaborative approaches that can enhance the learning experience and prepare students for the future.

Hybrid teaching can accommodate students with different situations. By this time, we might be sailing through a post-pandemic condition, as we can observe students have already developed a new sense of lifestyle and learning style as well. According to Philippine Statistics Authority 2020, “Youth labor force participation rate (LFPR) improved in July 2020 at 38.9 percent, compared to 38.3 percent in July 2019, and 32.4 percent in April 2020”. Which could mean that many of our students might be currently employed, that is why they would need a different mode in terms of attending schools. In a remote program, learners aren’t bound by the geographical or scheduling limitations in-person programs present.

Lastly, hybrid teaching prepares us for any situation that may arise. With the events happening in the whole world, the possibility of war, a new illness, a big calamity, climate change, disasters, or anything that can cause learners and teachers not to be physically available. This new mode would be a very useful game-changer. Its flexibility is unbounded by anything, there will always be a way to reach our learners.

There may be a lot of reason why we can’t easily accept this new era of teaching, but as they always say, every change is a chance to be better, hybrid teaching gives teachers a new platform in reaching the learners while accommodating all situations students are into, whether it is with early pregnancy, youth employment, distance, financial struggle, and many more; lastly, hybrid teaching makes learning possible despite the turn of events around us. As we navigate this new terrain, let's embrace the possibilities and work together to create a brighter future for education.

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