

**“IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE NEW  
NORMAL SET-UP: ALLEVIATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES”**

*by:*  
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The education system worldwide, including in the Philippines, has been significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Department of Education (DepEd) has taken several measures to address the challenges posed by the new normal setup and enhance the quality of education. One of the crucial strategies implemented by DepEd is the adoption of blended learning approaches that combine both online and offline modes of instruction. DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones explained that this approach aims to provide access to education to as many learners as possible while ensuring their safety amid the pandemic. In addition, DepEd has partnered with several organizations to distribute learning materials and devices to students in remote areas, ensuring that they have access to the necessary resources to continue learning (Philippine News Agency, 2021).

Moreover, DepEd has also prioritized teachers' training and professional development to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective blended learning. The agency has offered online courses and webinars to support teachers' continuous learning and development (Department of Education, 2021).

These efforts by DepEd have shown positive results in improving the quality of education in the Philippines amid the new normal set-up. However, challenges remain, such as unequal access to resources and the need for further support for learners with special needs (The Philippine Star, 2021).

In conclusion, the DepEd's alleviations to improve the quality of education in the new normal set-up have been critical in ensuring that learning continues despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. These efforts have successfully improved access to education and provided support to teachers and learners. However, more work remains to be done, and collaboration among stakeholders is crucial to sustain these gains and address the remaining challenges.

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