

ONLINE LEARNIG: THE FUTURE OF PHILIPPINE EDUCATION

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In the past decades, we have witnessed the rise of technology and how it revolutionized the way normal mundane things operate. From simple task in the kitchen to major advancement in communication, technology really claimed a new height.

Before the pandemic, technology was already being introduced to the educational sector in the Philippines. On public elementary and high schools, the use of TV's and projector units are used to include visual presentation to lessons and discussions. It is a leap from the traditional visual aids made from manila papers. Not only did it elevate the quality of the teaching materials and visual for the students, it also relieves the teachers from manually writing down and cutting the paper. Using these technologies enables the teachers to include vivid examples images as well as audios to the lessons, which is extremely advantageous for subjects like MAPEH, that includes arts and dances. The students will see what they were being taught in real time. It helps them connect to the subjects more, thus increasing the possibly of absorption of information.

When it comes to the higher education, technology is more integrated to the curriculum. College students are more accustomed to using technology, not only as visual presentation of lessons, but with collecting and gathering information for researches and assignments. The use of computers and online based submissions are also already common for universities. Professors take advantage of the convenience of technology to teach students independence when to studying.

One of the very few positive outcomes of the coronavirus or covid-19 pandemic is that the restrictions placed to prevent the spread of the disease forced the

education system to upgrade and slowly transition to online education. As of now, the Philippine education lies in the area between fully online education and traditional education. This in between is called blended learning method.

The name blended learning is commonly used to describe the learning method that use both electronic and physical education experience. In a blended-learning course, for example, students can join a class taught by a teacher in a traditional classroom setting, while also completing online components of the course outside of the classroom.

The potential of online education is vast. It is a step towards unbounded access to education and a way of bring education right at the homes of the students. However, this concept is still not possible in the Philippines due to several factors.

In the past months, we all have seen the articles and stories of children having to climb hills and trees just to be able to join online classes. This because of the limited reach of internet services in the country. There are still remote areas that do not have access to cellular signal as well as internet. Most of these areas are rural communities that depends on public schools for education.

The Philippines is ranked as 65th out of 180 countries when it comes to fixed broadband, and 77th out of 137 countries for mobile internet, as of May 2021. The internet speed is also improving with fixed broadband speed recorded at 58.73 megabits per second (Mbps) while mobile speed was at 31.97 Mbps, translating to an improvement of 19.1 percent for fixed broadband and 9.8 percent for mobile internet speeds, as compared to last April 2021 (49.31 Mbps for fixed broadband; 29.12 Mbps for mobile).

In the future, when the telecommunication sector has addressed the issues in terms of the reach of their services and the Philippine Education sector is adapted with the method of online learning, it will be a good option for the Filipino students.

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