

A BRIEF EXAMINATION ON FILIPINO EDUCATORS IN THE NEW NORMAL

by:

Maria Cristina B. Belino

Teacher III Pinulot Elementary School

Filipino educators have always been consistent with their love for teaching. Certainly, the unanticipated arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the traditional classroom setting and forced the school system to alter its educational managements, from curriculum writing to exhibiting teaching strategies. And with the growing demand for online education, the number of online courses and degrees has likewise increased (Enicola, 2021).

Now, teachers must develop new abilities to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities in the absence of face-to-face classes. With the pandemic situation in mind, what can the teachers do to give more students access to a challenging yet inspiring educational journey?

It is a must for every educator to be responsive to the ever-changing and shifting development needs of our society even compliant to the unforeseen challenges the pandemic has brought us. One of the teacher's roles in the classroom is to figure out how well students are progressing and what makes learning simple for them. In light of this role, I have observed several principles that are currently well-established.

First, the use of physical (technology) and socio-cultural (language) tools has been explicitly demonstrated well enough for the teachers to adapt and develop interaction with their students. To help students shift into the sudden changes brought about by the health crisis, distance learning methods have become part of the new normal in education (Enicola, 2021). During instruction, content is adequate, but the concern relies on how the

students take that content into account; what other types of support can be given in a learning environment for the students?

Second, the principle of learned-centered teaching has been continuously applied in every classroom session. From my experience, teachers adjust the setup so it can be more student-centered where we can take charge of leading our learning; it was achieved through student-led discussions, peer assistance and assessment, peer grading, and the like.

Third, the curation of resources to content dissemination and supplemental sources such as adaptive e-learning systems and visualization plays a role of being powerful tools for content comprehension and integration of past experiences and knowledge. Educators in the Philippines have become more creative in leveraging technological resources.

Now they can do efficient recording and sharing of educational materials. Learning has become more progressive in a way that a lot of web-based software and chat-based collaboration platforms exist to assist. Lastly, the ability to still be creative and models of behavior are still present even during online classes. Filipino educators have been applying other principles and providing their students with better learning experiences. They still give enough room for students to fail and learn from their missteps all the while helping them develop their critical thinking and self-reflection skills.

To be front liners of education means having an unyielding commitment and facing the good and the bad one can handle in a classroom setting. Generally, learning is a nonstop cycle where teachers must have that long string of patience. It is not an easy task especially with all the adjustments, but teachers give their best efforts to make this learning environment suitable for our needs. It may be a bit overwhelming, but through efficient and time-saving methods, both students and teachers are ready to get past the gist of online learning and face deeper connections from within.

References:

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