

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE APPLICATION OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING APPROACH IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING SYSTEM

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Learning by doing is the act of allowing the learners to grasp the extent of the competency they need to be able to improve their knowledge and skills and be ready for the next level of their education. It is important that every student must experience the actual task that is taught by the teacher, though this does not apply generally. It is most commonly practiced in particular subjects that require psychomotor skills such as in MAPEH, Science, TLE, and even in English and Filipino. The idea of learning by doing is an experiential approach. However, the common teaching pedagogies are subjected to change due to the shift of today's educational system.

In this crucial period of new normal education, the application of experiential learning approach to instruction has undergone certain adjustments and temporary changes. This is because of the lack of face-to-face instruction; the shift into the learning modalities and home-based learning environment would certainly expose learners to adjustments in the way they perform and accomplish experience-based learning tasks and activities. This distance learning system addresses the learners to the need to adapt experiential learning of tasks and activities by becoming independent especially through modular instructions. Everyone knows how the global pandemic has impacted the educational system above all. According to Christian, McCarty, & Brown (2020), the experiential learning approach in the pandemic has both positive and negative ongoing development. First, all the prime movers, including the teachers, students, parents, and school leaders, have a hard time to adjust from the usual practices to the new ways of embracing the teaching-learning process; second, majority of the learners are used to

doing the actual classroom activities with enough supervision of the teacher and enough interaction with their classmates; third, the social cognition of the students are slowing down from time to time, and this has become a serious challenge in all schools; lastly, learning materials and resources do not fit with how the students must guarantee learning by doing. Attending online classes and writing in the modules are only 30-60% effective.

Notably stating, it is a unique learning journey and experience for the learners to apply experiential learning approach through LDM-based instruction out of their pure reliance on self-learning readiness, skills, and competence. It is the very first time in the period of education, when the learners have no access to face-to-face instruction that would guide them in learning and linking their experiences to content knowledge and learning tasks. Students are left with no option, but to embrace the independent application and integration of experiential learning strategies and practices to their LDM-based learning journey and endeavor at this point in time when direct instructions and mentoring from teachers are temporarily minimized due to global health risks.

For us, educators, experiential approach is unique and wears varieties of colors. It makes learning fun. It enhances the self-esteem of the one who does the action. It delegates the pure readiness every student must gain during the years of their stay at school. Most importantly, social cognition leads them to a constructivist perspective where the learners are able to discover innovative knowledge and practices.

In these times of global crisis, teachers are still regarded as the noblest of all the professions. I believe that when we combine forces, we will be able to nurture experiential learning approach even if our clients are studying at home.

References:

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