

## INDEPENDENT LEARNING AND THE TEACHING OF ARALING PANLIPUNAN

*by:*

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Learning independence is the end goal of instruction; that is, to make learners apply on their own what they have learned in the classroom to real-life contexts and situations.

As an instructional strategy, independent learning provides activities and opportunities for learners to explore and discover learning on their own by being in charge of their interests and paces, asking questions, and making reflections and decisions on the paces of their learning. Through independent learning, students become motivated, confident, and empowered to learn and be active players in the educative process. Also, teachers are being guided on the strengths and weaknesses of the learners and the effectiveness of the various learning resources, modalities, assessments, environments, etc. that are used to individualize instruction.

At the core of this instructional strategy are the learner-centered approach and experiential learning (learning by doing). Being independent learners is having self-regulation – having management and discipline in learning. Students being not independent in learning have some repercussions on their academic performance – they become too dependent on their teachers and will become passive in the process.

Furthermore, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a focus on the use of self-learning modules and the promotion of independent learning. Essentially, independent learning helps learners to be in control, in charge, and the owner of their learning interface. Here, they can regulate, monitor, direct, and evaluate their paces and

progress by contemplating their outcomes, performances, decisions, or actions, making them able to identify their weaknesses and needs.

In Araling Panlipunan, students are also taught to be independent-minded by exploring concepts, ideas, thoughts, or questions through research, inquiry, and problem/situational analysis, leading to better understanding and actions integral to societal change. More so, through simulations, immersions, and community engagements, learners are becoming not just responsible learners, but also citizens in the community by leading significant changes/reforms that only young generations can spearhead.

Indeed, when the learners become the actual actors in the educative process by making them experience and are hands-on in their learning, metacognition (self-management of learning) is just at the palm of their hands. Without knowing it, when learners become independent learners, they had just acquired a life skill that is a key tool for survival once they entered adulthood.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

### *References:*

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