

THE CURRENT EDUCATION CRISES

by:

Elvie R. Mendoza

Teacher III, Saysain Elementary School

The Philippines' financial predicament has major role ever since in the country's growing education concerns, even before COVID-19 struck and caused hardships to millions of families. Gutierrez et al. (2021) added that Philippines was facing an education crisis, with overcrowded classrooms, shoddy public school infrastructure and desperately low wages for teachers resulting to teacher shortage. In addition, more children, teenagers, and adults are unable to keep up and fall behind due to discriminatory access to education.

The country undoubtedly has a class divide between wealthy and poor kids. Despite the fact that this is the case, less developed countries can concentrate on education if it is one of their top priorities. On contrast to its neighboring nations, the Philippines doesn't invest as much in high-quality education. Even in the digital age, many public schools continue to be devoid of computers and other necessary supplies. Moreover, a scarcity of public school teachers is one of the country's most urgent issues since they are among the lowest paid state employees. In addition, since the closure of the schools, more than a million children, teens, and adults are still unenrolled.

The Philippines' educational problems have gotten worse as a result of COVID-19, which also presented new difficulties. Due to the rapid events caused by the health crisis, online or TV distance learning options were required. A blended learning program that combines online classes, printouts, and lessons broadcast on TV and social media was also introduced in October 2020. Therefore, the internet access of both students and teachers is necessary for the new learning pathways.

The Philippines' educational problems include shortage of resources and restricted access to online education. Students had difficulties concentrating and learning online, and parents' ignorance of their children's education. Many Filipinos lack access to computers and other digital tools at home, making blended learning ineffective for millions of people. Thus, many pupils are impacted by the importance of technology in education. The main issues raised by parents and guardians with this include the cost of mobile data, a shortage of gadgets, a bad internet connection. De Guzman (2021) stressed that Internet access is a huge challenge. In urban regions, teachers can deliver lectures via Facebook Live or video conferencing services, but 52.6% of the 110 million people in the Philippines reside in rural areas with spotty internet access. Additionally, it isn't cheap: according to research from cybersecurity company SurfShark, the internet in the Philippines is among the least reliable, slowest, and most expensive of the 79 nations surveyed.

Due to COVID-19 closures, a billion children and young people worldwide are not attending school. According to the DepEd, millions of Filipino students were unable to enroll for the current academic year. As a result, more children are dropping out of school, which is a critical issue that must be addressed now in order to prevent longer-term issues from becoming worse.

References:

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