

## THE DEPED NATIONAL LEARNING PORTAL: A POWERFUL TOOL FOR CURRICULUM SUPPORT

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Given the changing nature of schools to adapt to modern pedagogies, an education system such as that facilitated by the National Learning Portal created by the Department of Education (DepEd) now would be a precious instrument for quality education. Formerly known as the DepEd LMS, the platform has evolved into one of the most important digital resources that will provide educators, school administrators, and students with ready access to educational materials, effective collaboration, and improvement in the quality of education nationwide. It, being an integral part of the curriculum, is fraught with problems to be tackled strategically for its maximum fulfillment.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

Though the DepEd National Learning Portal has a lot of benefits, problems do exist that impede its proper functionality. Among these is lack of access to devices in rural areas and slow internet connections. Even though the portal is available, its usage and integration are limited as most teachers and students in those areas suffer from connection problems, which make them not fully utilize the portal. Another limitation is that resources are scant in many subjects and grades on the portal. Resources also vary in quality. Some require modifications or upgrading to meet the requirements of the new curriculum as well as educational trends. There is also a content gap in all topics and at grade levels, and this portal contains many resources, and in terms of quality and nature, the resources vary and sometimes require a change or update according to the latest educational standards and trend. Digital skills gaps among many teachers also restrain many from using the portal effectively. The teachers mostly feel apprehensive because

they are not well-prepared to teach through the portal in the class and to solve technical problems as well.

The following are recommended to improve on the DepEd National Learning Portal and the problems that include the cooperation with governmental bodies, local government units, and the private sector to heighten internet connectivity in depressed areas. In addition, some of the viable ways of access to the portal would be drastically improved through activities such as the installation of public Wi-Fi, mobile hotspots, and provision of low-cost devices to teachers and students. Moreover, development of content should focus on creating a stream of continuous review and enhancement, especially in those topics and grade levels deficient in resources. Collaboration with other educators and specialists should be done to ensure information is relevant and not deficient in general knowledge. Also, provision of training courses that center around effective usage of the portal. Teachers could grow to become more adept and more confident with the platform by receiving training on digital skills, using the portal, and troubleshooting common tech issues. This could create a mechanism for teachers and students to give feedback about improvements on the platform itself, methodical problems related to tech, and quality of the resource provided. In a similar way, information can be used by DepEd in helping to make data-driven decisions that can improve portal features and services with time.

The DepEd National Learning Portal will undoubtedly contribute to the realization of inclusive education in the Philippines, and there are other ways of doing it quite effectively. With such smart improvements, this tool can become even better in pursuit of higher quality for everybody across the country. If the current issues and transformations in DepEd are properly addressed and alleviated, then it would help in making the learning environment in the Philippines more conducive and engaging for teachers and learners that promotes a life-long, safe and productive learning.

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