

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FACED BY LEARNERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PANDEMIC CRISIS

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As we navigate the aftermath of the pandemic crisis in education, it is important to recognize the various challenges faced by learners and take positive steps to address them. The COVID-19 pandemic has expressively restructured the setting of education, presenting extraordinary challenges for learners not only in the Philippines but around the world.

After a long 3 years, schools gradually reopened and educational systems attempted to return to a semblance of normalcy (New Normal), it becomes crucial to address the multiple problems that learners encountered in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The extended periods of remote or hybrid learning during the pandemic have resulted in extensive learning loss. As we observed, learners may have missed critical instructional time, leading to gaps in knowledge and skills. The prolonged period of ambiguity, social isolation, and disrupted routines has taken a toll on the mental health of learners. They experienced anxiety, stress, and feelings of isolation even as schools reopened.

Moreover, the shift to online learning has highlighted and intensified existing inequities in access to technology and a conducive learning environment. Learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds had faced greater challenges in catching up.

Learners returning to classrooms, experienced social challenges, including difficulty reconnecting with peers, adapting to new classroom dynamics, and steering changes in social norms.

The transition from remote to in-person learning posed challenges in re-establishing strong teacher-student relationships, which are crucial for effective learning and emotional well-being.

Variations in the delivery of educational content during the pandemic resulted in inconsistencies in the curriculum. Learners find themselves at different levels of preparedness based on their experiences during remote learning. The traditional assessment methods were not accurately reflecting a student's true understanding of the material.

To address the Challenges, the Department of Education (DEPED) implement targeted remedial programs to help address learning gaps. These programs include additional instructional support, tutoring, and personalized learning plans and LMs.

Schools allocate resources for mental health support, counseling services, and creating a supportive school environment to address the emotional toll of the pandemic on learners.

Offering professional development opportunities for teachers help them adapt to new teaching models, employ effective strategies for assessing student understanding, and foster positive teacher-student relationships.

By embracing a holistic and student-centered approach, educational institutions, policymakers, and communities need to work together to create a supportive environment that promotes both academic success and the well-being of learners in this exceptional era of change.

References:

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