

WHAT PANDEMIC MADE US?

by:

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The whole world was affected by the pandemic and somehow still is. Everything has stopped for quite some time. The changes made by the pandemic globally and mostly in our lives made us reflect on our personal lives. We had time to rest, appreciate family more, be concerned with Mother Earth, and renew our relationship with God. We also discovered things, started a hobby, and developed a new skill. We faced significant challenges that tested our resilience, adaptability, and faith. Most of us struggled.

The desire to provide continuing education fueled the Department of Education's adoption of the Learning Distance Modality. Teachers attended a series of webinars while conducting classes simultaneously. There was this amount of work to be done - new modality to be used, the printing of modules, the difficulty in communicating with parents and students, the time required to prepare the lessons, and the personal struggles emotionally and mentally almost made us give up.

But as John Colton Dana quoted, "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn". As a teacher myself, I was so at ease in my comfort zone. This new education somehow forced me and pushed us to come out of it. The series of webinars, training, and meetings helped us through. It opens opportunities to discover and hone skills and unlock professional goals. Some of these are developing a self-learning module, being a resource speaker, doing video lessons, and being literate in using different educational platforms and adapting to the new normal. The collection of work achieved throughout the year reflects what I and we can do and give more in teaching. It was challenging at first - as it is always so at the start - but we hurdled all of it and made ourselves victorious. We made

it through with the help of different agencies, stakeholders, school heads, colleagues, families, and friends, so we will faithfully make it again in the succeeding years whatever happens. As Phil Collins stated, "In learning, you will teach; in teaching, you will learn."

We are now back in the face-to-face setting – teaching and interacting with the students. What teachers found strenuous during the pandemic - the alternative distance modality (ADM) - we still apply and use nowadays. For instance, during typhoons and calamities or any cancellation of face-to-face classes, we can still teach and instruct our students to do a task. We can attend meetings or orientation through ZOOM or Google Meet, which requires physical presence before. For the majority of us, the pandemic altered our way of life. We acquired new skills in remote work or developed a greater understanding of interpersonal relationships.

We performed an arduous and challenging task, but we endured. We survived. It changed our perspective in life. It made us stronger and a better individual.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

References:

<https://today.duke.edu/2023/03/three-years-later-how-pandemic-changed-us>

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/7801/Phil-Collins-In-learning-you-will-teach-and-in-teaching-you-will-learn>