

## NAVIGATING NEW NORMS IN NURTURING PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL LEARNING ERA

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The digital era has brought about major alterations in the education industry, particularly with the advent of digital learning platforms. In the Philippines, the global pandemic of COVID-19 added momentum to embracing digital learning with schools being prompted to implement online or blended formats of teaching. Although this process was unavoidable, it also underscored major limitations for parents, particularly those belonging to rural or disadvantaged communities without much access to technology. For others, this change demanded acquiring new digital tools, dealing with technical problems, and discovering methods of supporting their children's learning at home. As schools and households continue to adapt, parental engagement in education has never been more critical, though it now assumes different forms and presents special challenges.

One of the biggest problems to parental engagement in the age of digital learning is a lack of access to technology. In many households, devices such as laptops or tablets are scarce, and multiple children may have to share one device. This not only makes attending online classes difficult but also limits the ability of parents to assist with assignments and monitor their child's progress. In addition, many parents may not be digitally literate, which complexes the challenge of supporting their children's online learning. Without the tools to access platforms, review assignments, or exchange information with teachers, parents can be isolated from the learning process.

In spite of these challenges, there are ways to cultivate parental engagement in this new world of learning. First, schools can provide parents with digital literacy training that teach them how to use online learning platforms and other learning tools. These training sessions must be easy and accessible so that even parents with little technical knowledge can join.

Moreover, clear and flexible communication is important in keeping parents updated. Schools can utilize different communication mediums, like messaging apps or social media, to give updates on assignments, upcoming events, and other school-related information. It is important to make sure that all parents, both those with digital access and those without, have access to this information in order to establish a home-school relationship.

Furthermore, teachers can invite parents to become more actively engaged in the learning process through taking part in interactive, offline activities that align with online classes. Easy tasks, like reading to their child or working on creative projects, can reinforce educational ideas and enable parents to spend quality time with their children while assisting them with learning. In doing so, parents become involved participants in their child's education, even though they may not always be able to help with computer tasks. This hands-on engagement also makes parents feel more involved in their child's educational process, creating a sense of collaboration with teachers.

With these challenges, schools should also be positive in fixing the digital divide. Working together with local government units and organizations to offer internet access, devices, and economic support for needy families can provide all students with equal opportunity to engage in online education. This effort can bridge the gaps in digital access and provide every child the chance to take part in the learning process, irrespective of his or her socioeconomic background.

Lastly, parents' engagement during the digital age of learning must equally cater to children's emotional and social welfare. Online learning can be a lonely experience, and parents have to be critical in ensuring that their children get through such emotional issues. Parents can be assisted by teachers with advice on how to ensure that there is a healthy learning environment at home that will foster emotional resistance and socialization despite a digital platform. By addressing both educational and emotional needs, parents may ensure that children succeed in the digital learning age.

With the Philippines adjusting to digital learning more than ever before, the participation of parents in their child's education is of greater importance now than ever before. By breaking through the barriers of participation and engaging in collaboration with schools, parents can assist their children in being well-rounded education recipients, who not only attain academic development but also emotional and social development. The era of digital learning creates challenges, yet it also poses a challenge as an opportunity to have stronger partnerships between home and school, for the ultimate end to be benefiting the children that are at the center of the education system.

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