



ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY
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The new normal is both a blessing and a curse to the Philippines Education

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Position Paper: The new normal is both a blessing and a curse to the Philippines Education

The coronavirus disease is an infectious disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The coronavirus has affected countries all over the world and is disrupting the global economy and also defining global health crisis of our time. The Philippines is a low to middle income archipelagic country with a population of more than one hundred million people, despite the improvements in the past the Philippines continues to face public health challenges because of its resources. The Coronavirus Pandemic continues to spread in different countries around the world, Due to the Pandemic the educational system of the Philippines has been affected and the digital technology will play a greater role in this new normal.

The corona virus pandemic not only affected the education in the Philippines but also the educational systems worldwide, leading the schools, universities and colleges to close their premises. In March 2020, the coronavirus disease pandemic forced schools in the Philippines to stop face-to-face learning and shifted to an online curriculum and with some other schools to made a decision to perform graduation rites online because of the COVID-19 lockdowns. As the public health crisis intensified, the opening of classes that is supposedly to be on June was moved to august to ensure the safety of the teachers, other school personnel and students. The postponement of the opening of classes made the people of the Philippines expecting that the government would use this postponement to implement programs that would help the possibility to resume classes as soon as possible without triggering further outbreaks. During Several senate and congress hearings, the lawmakers expresses their concerns about the readiness of the department of education in transitioning to a blended type of learning.

The New normal in Education

The new normal in education which will include new learning materials, continuous training and installation of a broadband connections. In response with the concerns, Department of education has assured that the government was all set for the opening of classes on August and insisted that the teachers have been advised about the innovative teaching strategies, distribution of modules and also the improvement of the internet connection. According to the Department of Education (DepEd) they have implemented online learning resources such as the DepEd Commons website, which already has 8 million users. Concurrent with this, TV and radio-based solutions will also be launched in areas with limited access to the Internet, through the implementation of RA 8375, which allots 15 percent of the total daily air time in a broadcast network to child-friendly content. Teachers are trained to use these new avenues for education.

The New normal in the Philippines education as a Curse

The coronavirus has affected not only the students but the whole academic community in the Philippines. Learning in the new normal is not that easy even though blended learning is not wholly new, The Philippines universities such as the University of the Philippines have already used blended learning. In the new normal, all schools will have to use blended or purely on-line

courses. Online classes may be an alternative solution to continue the learning of the students in this catastrophic event, but looking outside a privileged bubble, online classes are anti-poor because not everyone has an access to the internet or a gadget to be used for the online learning. Online classes may not be the best way to maximize education when most curriculums were designed for an on-campus learning. Also, student feedback is limited before in the traditional classroom when students are struggling to understand the lectures, they can ask their teacher immediately so that they would understand and resolve it quickly, the feedback that comes from the teacher have a positive impact to the students, it makes their learning processes easier and raising the motivation levels of the students, Online learning, on the other hand still likely to struggle with student feedback. The students become dissatisfied in completing the regular assessments when they experienced a lack of personalized feedback.

The New normal in the Philippines education as a Blessing

The new normal is also a blessing in unimaginable ways, the Philippines education institutions are now motivated to use online formats that could be sustainable in the future. Over the last decade, e-Learning has grown exponentially. It comes in many forms, but it's primarily used for certification training, college education and professional development. Today online learning are more important than ever because of the closures and other disruptions to your daily life that prevented you from growing and learning. Online learning makes it simple and convenient to keep building vital skills for your future. One of the advantages of implementing an online class is that less consumption of money because there are no commuting/public transportation needed. Moreover, students have freedom to make their own scheduled, not like in a traditional classroom that the students scheduled are fixed. With Online courses you can sign up for courses anytime and complete them according to your desired timeline.

The new normal is both a blessing and a curse to the Philippines Education

In Conclusion the new normal is both a blessing and a curse, A blessing since implementing a new normal in education will help the education system determine their weaknesses that needs to be improved for the future. A curse today because of the unpreparedness and lack of resources of the educational system in the Philippines, A curse that will continue in the future if the problems aforementioned will not be addressed. With the students and teachers having suddenly been exposed to online teaching and learning due to the pandemic will help them be used to in transitioning different learning approaches or be sustainable in the future.

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