

Alterations of the scholars' routines in a new academic setting amidst the COVID-19

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Abstract: This Covid-19 pandemic is the evidence that nothing is constant in this world but change. No one had foreseen that in just a blink of an eye, everything has been revamp. Particularly, in the education realm; COVID-19 pandemic made consequential impact on how people specially the school administrators and students adjust and make changes on how possibilities and ways are must be operated without outlawing the interdicts of survival in this pandemic. At the moment, people around the world encounter hardships on how to process their daily routine during the pandemic. This article will talk about the challenges that educational scholars are facing and the changes of the daily routines of every student amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in order to meet their educational needs. Thus, the lawmakers in the educational realm will make a lengthy adjustment to address the needs of educators, students and parents to have a meaningful and better learning in the midst of this global crisis.

Keywords: COVID-19, Education, Learning, New normal, Reflections

1. Introduction

As a response into this global health issue, leaders from different countries took an action to address this health issue by implementing lockdown measures and protocols to somehow diminish the spread of the virus. In this pandemic, people made adjustments from how, when, and where are their everyday activity portraying their role as person and as member of the society will be handled. In this pandemic people has only given a choice in making their days productive, staying at home. In this pandemic, different institutions cannot escape and no one is exempted in the implemented protocols in doing their activities normally even in our educational institution. Education as an essential institution for development have been declared to be applied at homes while schools are shut down but with the use of technology it somehow does not made education to be pulled back. Students are left no choice but to maximized their tools and mediums in learning but adjustments are made rapidly to fulfill requirements in passing their modules. Lawmakers and educational leaders around the world have to do something with it in order for the educational attainment of the students no to be delayed but it provide unusual bombarded activities for the students.

The effect of this pandemic made many adjustments because of unprepared simulations of online practices in using technology as the only tool in learning considering the availability of technologies, network settings and condition, and the unusual activities provided both online and offline learning on the daily routine of every student as part of the educational institution. These adjustments are sliced affecting the management of time because of the unavailability of technologies and internet connection needed, merged home and student's responsibilities, and unusual learning activities.

Thus, as what we have encountered right now, we have been imprisoned to our fear, worries, and anxiety. We could not do what we usually are doing because of this pandemic. It has changed our lifestyles. It forced everyone on the globe to rethink their short- and long-term plans because nowadays all the things are uncertain. To the point that we don't even know what tomorrow holds. Hence, every day there is always a new uprising problem and it is up to us on how we are going to face it and overcome. However, despite this global crisis, the culture of the people about the studies of their children is always essential for them. The education is significant among the parents and people in the community whatever the obstacle we are facing.

Thus, this article is a reflection of the university scholars (Toquero et al., 2021) from the Philippines for us to share how we are overcoming the challenges through focusing on our goals and findings ways to remain hopeful despite our current academic settings.



Figure 1: Flexible learning in the Philippines

Through this poster, we would like to portray the New Academic Settings that everyone is in. It is known that technology is the primary tool in today's academic settings in which we can see that the policy makers are really trying their best to cope up the with needs of the educators, learners and parents in battling this pandemic in terms of educational matters. As students, it is really hard to face these trying times because it needs a lengthy adjustment with this new learning delivery. But, there are always silver linings and rainbows amid downpours (Toquero, 2021; Toquero et al., 2021b). However hard as it is, we must bear in mind that in every battle, one must overcome in order to thrive.

2. Meditation on a higher being

We are living in a world that is both challenging and difficult. So, in order to survive and press on, the first thing that we usually do in the morning is pray. For us, prayer is essential because, aside from being the children of God, we do believe that prayer is vital and it works. Why do we even need to pray? Prayer is the best weapon that we can use to survive in this crooked world. We believe that acceptance is necessary in order to continue living and accomplishing our errands. Optimism and contentment with what we have are needed in order to see the beauty in the midst of this pandemic. We should always look for one reason to go and live. Finally, we should consistently love everything that surrounds us, even our enemies, and we should not contribute to spreading hatred, insecurities, and gossip. Instead, be the source of happiness and love for everyone. In this way, we can help and empower everyone to continue to live and survive the adventures of life.

2.1. Technology is indispensable

At home, learning activities are different than those in face-to-face discussion (Angdhiri, 2020). And in many insights from the rants on social media, students are not able to cope with this hardship. Students are just distracted by the different technologically related educational apps, specifically the entertainment brought by social media and online games. The conflict between scheduling time for distractions and education interrupts us frequently in our situation. It is hard to capture internet signal, but once we get it, we are distracted by the chitchats and games online. With this experience, we can say that it is not about the worksheets that are given, but about the distractions that are there to interrupt the learning time of the student. This could be the reason why rants and issues on social media regarding the hardships that students are encountering. Too much time have been given to the habits of surfing the internet.

Nevertheless, in this pandemic, technology displaces almost all of the learning activities of the students during this pandemic. According to experiences and some insights in social media and in the community, technology is a real deal in the implementation of both online and offline learning. What is crucial to this is that there are large numbers of students who lack the technology needed for both online and offline learning.

In our case, the internet connection is a barrier for us to finishing our tasks. To positively finish our task, we have to go outside along the highway for about 100-200 meters away from home to download and upload modules and to attend online discussions. In the regular class, we may be in the rented room to easily connect to the PISO W-Fi if there are needs for uploads and downloads or even write research. Hence, learning during the pandemic requires the accessibility of technology.

2.2. Scheduling merged responsibilities

Adjustments are not common for every individual, especially for every student at any school level. As a grown individual, responsibilities have already occurred, and it takes more serious to take action. Both student responsibilities and responsibilities at home are intertwined tasks of the learner in this pandemic. This is similar to what other scholars experience during emergency online learning (Toquero et al., 2021). It does have a big impact on adjusting our daily routine as students and as persons responsible for the specific home chores. Most of our modules and assignments are worked on at night, starting from 6 pm up to 12 midnight, or even 1 to 2 am. And it is hard that we should wake up early to finish responsibilities at home, like house chores, and also the commands to go out and buy some necessities for our home. These routines occupy too much of our time, but we manage to cope through prioritizing and scheduling.

3. Conclusion

During this pandemic, everyone is struggling and adjusting, but everyone is working in unison as we make the learning environment meaningful in the midst of this pandemic. The policymakers, educators, learners, parents, as well as the people of the community will fight as one to hold onto the future we are dreaming of. Inclined with this, the cooperation and unity of everyone will bear fruit in success and peace. Thus, the lawmakers continue to strive hard to address the needs of everyone by designing different frameworks and models to make the learning process accessible and comprehensible to all. Instructors are also given difficult tasks regarding how they will convey knowledge to students. Adjustments and managing routines are crucial because of the involvement of many factors that surround their homes. Articulated hours for specific tasks are not followed in some cases. What is needed is just a little bit of understanding, respect, and self-discipline. And for all of us, students who face challenges, we still strive hard, soar high like an eagle, and stand firm because the battle is not yet over. Thus, we did not let this pandemic ruin the future that we had built so many years ago. As most Filipino states, "*Pandemic ka lang, PINOY kami!*" We would all eventually break free and live the lives we desire.

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