



CHALLENGES OF MODULAR DISTANCE LEARNING MODALITY AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT:

The study is conducted to achieve the objective of distinguishing the ground work preparation for teachers in the conventional instruction, determine problems and issues experienced in this learning modality and to present intervention to improve the process of distance learning. Using a descriptive method in gathering data, researchers have identified that teachers were being calibrated by attending an online webinar. As researchers conducted the study we were able to point some common challenges in the distance learning which are the self – learning modules, lack of technological equipment, lack of learning support services, social bonds, and module distribution and retrieval. Researchers presented some intervention to improve the process of modular learning which are staying engage, balancing curriculum innovation with curriculum time, continually monitor progress and passionately provide home room guide to the students. After data has been gathered it is concluded that achieving the learning goal is very possible as long we are getting the complete awareness of how important teacher-to-parents and teachers-to-students linkage can greatly affect learning.

KEYWORDS:

INTRODUCTION

When Covid-19 pandemic hit globally there are a lot of things that are completely affected. There we have experience a sudden paradigm shift of learning, lifestyle, everyone is being financially challenge, the atmosphere is surrounded with fears and questions in mind, like, when this will end?. A lot of things happened during the start of pandemic, some loss their job, some are not able to travel back on overseas and everyone is being lock down from home. Maintaining social distancing to those who are privilege to go outside, wearing mask and face shields. People are working from home and offices has some required number of percentages that are only allowed to report to site, and even there was a complete shutdown to religious gatherings. With the Covid-19 pandemic we were living the life that we never lived before. Pandemic greatly hit in the Philippines by the last week of March 2020 where the government in the Philippines declared a total lock down to cities and provinces. This was also the time that students that were at school were being sent back home. Everyone seems like excited about going home and didn't feel terrified about it and in fact some students say, Horray! No class! . However, the challenge comes when the government doesn't have any uncertainty when this pandemic will end since globally everyone is still battling and looking for remedies. There are a lot of areas that are being affected in this pandemic and one of it is the

education system. Since the government announced that there is still no uncertainty about when this pandemic will be over, the Secretary of the Department of Education declared that the classes should continue. This is where teachers are being calibrated about what needs to be done in order to accommodate the students learning continuity even in this pandemic. This is where the education develops the distance learning mode, where classes will be using the digital platform or by modules.

Since then, this has been the mode of learning that we are now into. The researchers conducted this study entitled challenges of distance learning modality with the objective to answer how the teachers are being prepared about this sudden change of learning mode. We are also going to identify what are some common challenges that the teachers and learners encountered during this period of learning mode. We will also be presenting interventions to help improve the process of learning modality.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This research aims to identify the challenges of teachers in the use of modular distance learning modality amid pandemic. This study focuses on the following:

Distinguish the preparation a groundwork of school teachers in the contemporary conventional instruction

Determine the problems and issues experienced as they

arranged for separate learning methodology

Present intervention to improve the process modular distance learning modality

METHODOLOGY

This study thinks about an expressive investigation which utilized investigate plan to determine the challenges experienced by instructors within the utilize of measured separate learning methodology. Based from the collected information, this will be organized, displayed and analyzed to decide the changed concerns, issues, holes and issues confronted amid the execution of secluded separate learning methodology. The substance of this paper can be utilized for other related writing as a substantial source of reference in making an inquire about related to separate learning modalities. In order to find appropriate solutions and interventions to improve the teaching and learning in the use of modular distance learning, this paper identified the struggles and difficulties.

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND ANALYSIS

There are numerous challenges that the Department of Education confronting from the starting of this widespread up to this display. Because of this phenomenon, the learning's of numerous understudies should not be halted. The Department of Education discover a few imaginative ways to have a nonstop learning towards learners. In this second year of modular distance learning modality, the stakeholders, parents, teachers, and other department in public and in private sectors continue to support and guide to the finest of their capacities and skills to serve for our future leaders of our next generation.

PREPARATION OF TEACHERS IN THE NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

Instructors are one of the foremost basic components in conveying quality learning. The DepEd plans self-learning modules for unused typical instruction. The integration of SLMs with the elective learning conveyance modalities (modular, television-based, radio-based instruction, blended, and online) will help DepEd guarantee that all learners have get to quality essential instruction for SY 2020-2021 with confront-to-confront classes still denied due to the open wellbeing circumstance. The SLM and the other elective learning conveyance modalities are in put to address wants, circumstances, and assets of each and each learner and will cover all the bases in guaranteeing that fundamental instruction will be open in the midst of the display emergency postured by COVID-19," DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones said.

Some of these are part of preparation of teachers during the covid-19 pandemic

1. Teachers were trained through attending webinars online. All public schools both secondary and elementary teachers are required to attend the webinars. Their participation to these seminars will help make a successful learning environment, progress educating- learning circumstances, keep overhauled on present day

directions gadgets and rouse them to ended up way better instructors within the cutting-edge world. Successful proficient improvement empowers teachers to create the information and aptitudes they ought to address students' learning challenges. Proficient improvement isn't compelling unless it causes instructors to make strides their instruction or causes directors to ended up way better school pioneers.

2. Master teachers were entrusted to create self-learning module for the generation of a certain subject range. They were given the basic parts on making the modules.
3. Numbers of machine were bought by the schools' division to be used in printing the self-learning modules in all subject areas.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES EXPERIENCED IN DISTANCE LEARNING MODALITY

The implementation of distance learning modality during this pandemic is not easy. There are numerous challenges that the teachers, students, parents as well as the Department of Education encountered. UNESCO even declared that most of the school this year are closed. This actually basically impact 60% of student's population. Amidst in this dilemma that we are facing education continues. DepEd develop means to continue the learning amidst the pandemic. With the utmost desire to continue the learning there are really challenges that are encountered along the way.

SELF - LEARNING MODULES

Since the starting of the current scholastic year, which started on October 5 after being deferred due to the coronavirus widespread, there have been a huge number of complaints almost mistakes within the materials disseminated to understudies by the Department of Education (DepEd). Most of these appeared reasonably minor, the result of DepEd having to make a completely unused program in a really brief sum of time. Some errors are in grammar, wrong math equation, black and white colour matching type, gender stereotypes in children's toys, module referring celebrity, and others. Second, illustrations are restricted the modules themselves are not idealized. They vary from school to school, and their substance depends on the instructors who made them. A few understudies may not have an issue understanding their lessons since of a well- explained module, but others may not be as fortunate.

LACK OF TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT

Since not everyone can afford all these gadgets needed in learning like phone, tablets and computer and availability of web access this could also be one of the challenging dilemmas that parents can be facing due to the fact that everyone is financially challenge during this pandemic.

LACK OF LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

Since during this kind of set-up really calls for parents-to-teachers to work hand-in hand in families

where both guardians are truant, attempting to make closes meet, and no one has gone to college because of destitution, measured learning might not work at all. This could make teachers will be having difficulty in translating the information that would be forwarded to them. This would then show that lessons are constrained to what's composed on paper. Without another more learned individual who can clarify these complicated concepts, the understudy will questionably have trouble retaining their lessons. Modules are not substituting for instructors, like, what has been specified over, without a learned individual around who can clarify confounding or complicated concepts composed within the module, the understudy won't get it.

SOCIAL BONDS

Due to some electronic contraptions, not all has access to technology, they may not know who their classmates are for this school year. The only point of contact with their instructors this school year is through the modules. There will be no sense of bonds that can be build. Both students and teachers are stressed out with the deadlines. There's small to no input with respect to what they have learned and in case their answers are redress. Hence, the measured approach gets to be a perpetual stream of printed material for both the understudy and the instructor with no way of knowing its viability. It's difficult to assimilate modern data when no one is there to direct you (or at slightest empathize with you) when the lessons ended up as well much. This may moreover contribute to the uneasiness and sadness a few understudies feel presently that they're battling to keep up with secluded learning requests.

MODULE DISTRIBUTION AND RETRIEVAL

The distinctive divisions of government, counting instruction, were extended to fit the Unused Ordinary. The framework had gone through a part in a brief period and had come to incredible lengths to maintain its mission. The Department of Education created the Essential Instruction Learning Proceeding Arrange (BE-LCP) that included diverse learning modalities to guarantee security among the distinctive partners. . Contraptions were dispersed, intranet frameworks were introduced, and localized materials were created and created to address the issues that developed with the worldwide wellbeing emergency. The challenge comes because larger part of the guardian did not participate in either disseminating or recovering the module. This makes instructors need to went back and forward so they might engage the guardians. In which this could open to both instructor and parent's vulnerability due to the condition where we are at.

C. INTERVENTION PRESENTED

STAYING ENGAGED

Engagement of students is very critical especially during the young secondary students. Loss of engagement is one of the identified factors for drop out. In this case this period of disengagement could live to a more risk. This

does not only happen here in the Philippines but even the rest of the countries. This would give us an idea that going to school is not just about learning the subjects but also building social relations and peer-to-peer interactions.

BALANCE CURRICULUM INNOVATION WITH CURRICULUM TIME

Schools should take into consideration of the challenges that students encountered during this course of time. In order to cope up with these great changes, the educational system made some innovations in education in order to still accommodate students in this pandemic. During the implementation it is not easy, we have been encountering challenges even until now especially on how learners answer the material. This would show that education should present learners course time table for their study. This is to avoid adding pressures to the learners, like, keep on bugging learners on the deadline for submission for all modules. Instead of collecting everything at one, it would be better to provide student time table learning, just like they be given everyday task so to help both teachers and students lessen the burden and it would like they are going to school every day only that they are at home.

PASSIONATELY CONDUCT HOME ROOM GUIDANCE

As stated in the DepEd memorandum released on June 22, 2020 the pandemic does not only affect the educational system but also it affects student's mental health as learners begin to adapt the "new normal" which is online classes and modular. In this memorandum it has been identified that we need to address some other concern aside from their academic performance. Why did I say passionately, because this program has already been introduced from DepEd as part of the intervention but not all are applying it. According to Ronilda Co, Director of DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Services (DRRMS) believed that the program is very helpful to students "As we enter a new school year, our learners in the secondary level area about to make another series of adjustments that might become stressful for them," Co said. By doing this kind of structure this could help learners to be more open and we will be able to address the other concerns as early as possible

CONTINUALLY MONITOR PROGRESS.

When there is a monitoring system we can be on top of student's learning progress. According to one of Wayne Hedlund article, "Don't expect what you did not inspect". This is sometimes the common mistake that we have, like assuming things to be done without doing a follow up. Especially learners are not used to doing it. We have to make sure that instructions are clearly delivered. We do monitor because of two things (a) We have never done this before (b) we work with people who are not used to work with it. You can only expect what you inspect.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion to this study learning is still very possible even in this pandemic provided that everybody will be

working hand in hand towards the goal. Somehow doing modular or either online could be advantage to some but disadvantage to some. Students that have a very limited access could somehow suffer much difficulty. However, if intervention will be applied we can still really arrive on the expected goal. This shows the idea on how important communication is with the students-to-teachers and from teachers-to-parents is very essential. Both teachers and parents should see the significance of their constant engagement. We can also say that the more students are engage the more they become motivated. The more we monitor the more we can see results and progress.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to address some challenges with regards to this learning modality we recommend the following to be considered:

- Strong linkages with LGU
- Collaboration with parents to teachers in order for them to be updated about the student's learning progress and lifestyle of learning
- Asking for feedback about the challenges student's encounter themselves during the study
- If possible provide some financial assistance to students since in most cases parents are also being challenge financially
- There should be at least a once a week all together session to all students so we may assess them psychologically about their learning condition. Teacher should also remained engage to their students, intentionally setting an appointment to get in touch with them either online or physical but of course still maintaining the protocols.
- Parents should be highly encouraged to be engage with the distribution and retrieval of modules

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