



CHALLENGES IN THE MODULAR LEARNING DELIVERY TO THE LEARNERS IN FAR FLUNG AREAS

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ABSTRACT:

This study aimed to identify the challenges of learners in the use of modular learning modality during new normal setting and how the learners cope in the new normal situations. This qualitative research study helps determine the recommendations how to address these challenges. This study was based on the firsthand experience of the teachers in public elementary schools in far flung areas. The teacher identified the challenges based on how they prepared and distribute the modules, monitor students' performance, and provide feedbacks on student's achievements. Hence with the use of the various strategies to cope with the challenges encountered by the learners. Teachers needs to provide suitable interventions used to identify and removed obstacles that hinder learners academic progress.

KEYWORDS:

FAR FLUNG AREA, MODULAR LEARNING DELIVERY, EDUCATION IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MODULAR APPROACH IN LEARNING

INTRODUCTION:

“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory” (Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948). Thus, providing quality education to the learners amidst pandemic is a must. Since COVID-19 Pandemic threatens the lives of the learners, Philippine education. It is important for the researchers to study more in hope to find the origin of the problem and formulate a solution. Somehow this research will find a clear answer to aid the problem.

OBJECTIVES:

This research review aims to provide teachers' professional growth which can be an integral part of school development. Specifically, this research review seeks to understand the following areas:

- * Determine the problems encountered during the implementation of modular learning delivery.
- * Identify the learner's learning needs during pandemic
- * Present the findings of the challenges in the learning delivery to the learners in far flung areas
- * Present the advantages and disadvantages of modular learning delivery
- * Provide various recommendation on how to address learners' needs in far flung areas

METHODOLOGY:

This descriptive research was based on the experience of Calavera Elementary School teachers. The research is design to determine the challenges encountered by the learners during modular distance learning modality. This study was conducted among the selected learners of

Calavera Elementary School. Different social media platforms were used for communication purposes in distribution and retrieval of the data questionnaire. The personal experience of the teachers and parents was gathered through a survey.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches to gather and analyze all the problems. Researchers gathered the survey results of the participants through indirect interviews using survey questions. As a result, researchers will be able to analyze the gathered data's and be able to identify the cause and the effect.

PARTICIPANTS

In this study the participants comprised 45 learners from grade 4-6 and parents of Calavera Elementary School for the S.Y. 2020-2021. They are selected randomly to achieve the main goal of this study.

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND ANALYSIS

Education sector has been greatly affected by Covid-19 Pandemic and adopted to the changes of the new normal. Modular print was used in the new learning process while parents have crucial roles in facilitating this learning. Parents and guardians perform the various roles in Modular Learning. They are the ones to get and submit the printed Self-Learning Modules (SLMs) from and to schools or barangay halls at the beginning and end of the week, depending on the agreement between the parents and the school. In this second year of modular learning, parents from Calavera Elementary School continue to support and guide the future leaders of our next generation. They provide their children with a productive learning environment to help them focus more on Learning. An environment which is conducive to learning

must be provided among learners.

PREPARATION OF TEACHERS IN THE NEW NORMAL EDUCATION

From preparation of lesson plans to conducting the classes and the handing out of assignments, teachers have to make sure that the quality of learning remains even with the absence of face-to-face interactions. Preparing lessons during this pandemic is way more challenging than before since the concern is not just limited to making sure that the learning will be transferred to the learners, but also to making sure that this is actually delivered to them.

THESE ARE SOME PREPARATIONS OF TEACHERS

- a. Zooming As A Way Of Life
Teachers were being trained through attending webinars online.
- b. Designed Instructional Materials for learners.
- c. The school provided printing machines to be used for printing and sorting the SLM.

Teachers are well-oriented and prepared to perform their tasks and functions on modular distance learning education in times of pandemic. They also have enough training and skill development necessary to effectively and efficiently do their job. Despite the challenges imposed by the many safety precautions due to the coronavirus, teachers said they were looking forward to seeing students face-to-face. However, they were concerned about keeping a safe environment for their students and themselves.

PROBLEMS ISSUES EXPERIENCED IN MODULAR LEARNING DELIVERY

Despite the promises and obvious advantages to distance learning, there are problems that need to be resolved. These problems include the quality of instruction, hidden costs, lack of gadgets for learners, Low internet connectivity in far flung areas. . To give consideration to the learners in rural areas where the internet inaccessible for online learning, the Modular Learning modality is currently used by all public schools in the Philippines. Each one of these has an effect on the overall quality of distance learning as a product. Modular learning is a form of distance learning that uses Self-Learning Modules (SLM) and is highly convenient for most of the typical Filipino students. It was also the most preferred learning system of the majority of parents/guardians for their children. The SLM is based on the most essential learning competencies (MELCS) provided by the Department of Education. The study was conducted to determine the issues and concerns on the use of Modular Distance Learning Modality among teachers/Parents/guardians can able to support their children in the new learning modality but some of them are hampered because of the incapability of facilitating and explaining the modules provided for their children. The study shows the elementary schools have given sufficient funds and resources and it is utilized in its proper

allocation.

SELF LEARNING MODULES

Since face-to-face classes aren't yet permitted, students and teachers will introduce learning in which the combination of the different distance learning modalities such as printed modules, offline digital modules, online, and TV and radio-based teaching will be used until face-to-face classes formally begins. This refers to a learning delivery modality where learning takes place between the teacher and the learners who are geographically remote from each other during instruction. Learning is in the form of individualized instruction that allows learners to use self-learning modules (SLMs) in print or digital format/electronic copy, whichever is applicable in the context of the learner and other learning resources like Learner's Materials, textbooks, activity sheets, study guides and other study materials. It is an alternative delivery mode alternative delivery mode that aims to provide learners with equal access to quality basic education through a home-based environment to be facilitated by qualified parents, guardians or tutors who have undergone relevant training.

LACK OF GADGET

Teachers have difficulties brought about by distance learning, which has forced some students to drop out of school.

The top reasons, one teacher explained, was the inability to easily access gadgets as well as the unstable internet connection.

Learners are definitely having a hard time adjusting to distance learning. The main concerns here are internet connectivity and gadgets. Since not everyone can afford to buy gadget.

Unavailability of gadgets and poor internet connection were just two of the factors that conflicted with its mandate to deliver quality education to the learners.

MODULES DISTRIBUTION AND RETRIEVAL

Module Legends" somehow, somewhere, one had seen or heard that phrase before. Perhaps, it could be all given how the world was greatly affected by the pandemic.

Different challenges were encountered, specifically, in distributing and retrieving the modules.

1. Lack of printed modules. Teachers tend to print self-learning materials to complete the number of modules to be distributed to the learners. Teachers had to use the soft copy of modules.
2. Parents did not follow their assigned schedule in getting and retrieving the modules. This resulted in the unnecessary reporting to schools of teachers as they went back and forth just so they could entertain the parents. This was such a huge health risk for them given the circumstances of the COVID-19 infection.
3. Late delivery of modules from the service providers which oftentimes, caused the stress to the teachers as

they needed to reproduce the modules themselves for the modular learners. It also meant that the late modules would just pile up in the school and would no longer be usable for the time being.

However, as an educator, it is important to deliver quality education to the learners despite the lapses mentioned. The teachers rose to the challenges and adopted to the new system with collaboration and good communication channels as the key to champion the cause for quality education amidst the pandemic.

INTERVENTION

With distance learning, schools and teachers face a whole new set of challenges as they aim to make learning equitable in this new environment.

Since this is a new learning environment, teachers have to rethink how to meet students' needs. Learners are struggling with social and emotional issues related to the coronavirus pandemic. Help students develop new routines and strategies. Help them use this time as an opportunity to develop new strategies to help with focus and learning. Maintaining positive relationships to their families is essential, especially during distance learning

Learners are more motivated when they feel the support and love. Constant monitoring for us to see the results and the progress of the learners.

This shows that both parents and teachers should work hand in hand towards the main goal .

CONCLUSION

There is a lot of research that explains the different factors that affect students' performance especially during this time of pandemic. In our study, there are specific challenges that affects the performance of students attending modular distance learning. For the students who still cannot access the internet, they will be given special consideration by home visitation as an example. Aside from text and call, social media particularly on messenger is one of the most used modes of communication between teachers, parents, and students. Therefore, teachers are recommended to be active online most of the time. They must be able to address the sentiments of some parents and students, which is to be patient enough in attending to the needs and to respond to the queries immediately with regards to learning. This can be applied to some schools located in rural areas like Calavera Elementary School .

Lack of financial assistance from parents, and the learning environment affects learners. Since they are studying at home, some learners can't focus on doing their modules because of household chores and attention is divided with works for these reason, there is a delay in the submission of modules and students perform poorly in school. With that, everybody should work together to achieve the goal. This shows how important parent, learners and teacher's communication is. Constant monitoring with the learners. Parents should do their job they must keep learners motivated for learners to become independent. And for us to arrive on the expected goal in this study.

RECOMMENDATION

From the survey conducted, several recommendations were gathered.

These are some recommendations, methods and strategies to further improve the Modular Distance Learning.

4. Collaboration with the parents to teachers through Group chat in order for them to be more updated about the student's progress. Parents must have to engaged with the distribution and retrieval of modules to avoid delays.
5. Parents should be supportive in providing the needs of the learners. Keep them motivated and feel them the love.
6. The appropriate interventions to be provided for struggling learners according to teachers are consistent consultation through text, call, and through other social media platforms, organization of Community Learning Facilitators (CLF), home visitation for direct tutorials, simplification of modules, and immediate note/feedback made by teachers which are written in vernacular language. For parents, teachers can give them assistance through text and call, community facilitating, consultation and posting updates on social media, and by giving them words of encouragement.

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