



## Effects of Distance Learning Modality in the Performance of Pupils under New Normal

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### ABSTRACT

Education should never stop. Whatever circumstances may appear, the learnings that are meant to be given for all kinds of learners, even in the event of pandemic, must be present. This paper presents articles discussing about how this new normal of education creates a huge impact and changes in the learning deliveries for students of new century. How these changes affect the performance of students in their subjects, their attitudes towards the different challenges, and enumerate the pros and cons in the educational system under this new normal. The primary resources of this paper were taken from different international and local studies and journals. Related studies have been discussing that students were able to perform tasks given to them by simply clicking buttons in their computers or gadgets, or by having an interaction in real time or asynchronously with their teachers from far away. This allows students to access quality education under new normal.

**Keywords:** Distance Learning Modality, Educational System, Performance of Pupils under New Normal

### INTRODUCTION

When the world was first devastated by the Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID 19), almost every aspect of living has been affected. Transportation, businesses, and even governments was affected by the pandemic. Some people lost their jobs, but the worst scenario, was some lost members of their families. Aside from the listed above, this pandemic has brought a big change in the educational system in the Philippines. A change that becomes a problem in the Department of Education, due to preparedness of both public and private elementary and secondary educational institutions.

On June 8, 2020, the Department of Education thru Secretary Leonor M. Briones, stated that in view of this global pandemic, the education sector is fully engaged in the preparation of future operations in line with the updating of guidelines, realigning budget allocations and collaborations with stakeholders in order to provide quality education and making it a possible amidst the pandemic. They have prepared and updated different learning modalities and gives trainings to teachers on utilizing these tools to address the needs in learning delivery.

Although some teachers have successfully managed the shortcomings of this new educational system, students are the ones who suffers at the end of the day. Not all students (both from Public and Private Schools) has the capacity to engaged in the teaching-learning process due to availability of resources. They find it hard to communicate with their teachers via social media, text or call, because of unavailable funds and internet connection. Therefore, their performances are being dragged down from the usual result.

Another reason is that the validity of the student's performance is quite questionable. Since, in the new educational system, students can perform task asynchronously, or by their own, even under the supervision of their parents, they can manipulate their answers by themselves, without their teacher knowing it.

In this article, the effects of Distance Learning Modality will be emphasized as it was the main objective in measuring the performance of students under the new normal. And this review will serve as additional source of information to future researchers in identifying the effectivity of Distance Learning Modality in general or by specific aspect of educational system in the Philippines.

### DISCUSSIONS

According to the research conducted by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT, 2001), Distance Learning or Distance education is an old concept of educational system. Since the late 1800's, the University of Chicago was the first who responded in the United States who performed this type of modality where teachers and learners were at different stations. But beforehand, during the early part of industrialization in Europe, education was only available and possible for the elites, especially to males who are members of higher society. This elites were brought together in a place and spend time to learn with a teacher. The same style of learning applied in the present time of education. Although, an educator named

William Rainey Harper (1890) exerted his effort to establish an alternative way of learning for those who cannot afford to go in an educational institution, it was being laughed by others. Still, the essence of having equal and quality education has been part of our free minds.

Until such time, when technology arrives, the world begun to accept the education on its alternative mode of delivery. Several groups and individuals respond to the developing system of delivering educational information. And by then, Distance Learning has been a choice for many people around the world today.

Knowing these facts, the world was stopped by another circumstance. The virus caused by inappropriate actions of some people frightens the world organization. This virus known as COVID 19, freezes almost all operations around the world. And one of those is Education. In fact, according to UNESCO, around 87% of the total population of students were affected by this pandemic. Among all the countries who suffered from this pandemic, countries like Philippines were also affected, especially, its educational system. In the past year, the Philippine government addresses the needs of our students. Through the Department of Education, both private and public schools from kindergarten to higher education, were given different choices of learning modality. One of them was named Distance Learning, which is where lessons are delivered using social medias or modules made by experts.

However, some questions appeared even before the implementation period. Questions like, are the students will be able to understand the lesson and/or capable of learning by themselves? What about those students who aren't supported by their own parents or guardians? Also, are there enough resources to produce modules? Surprisingly, with the help of private sectors and other stakeholders, the Department of Education was able to address these questions.

When the preparation was done, the implementation takes place. But according to Edward Roesch (2020), a big shift to remote learning from the usual practices makes it hard for both learners and teachers in adapting to a sudden and unplanned transition in the educational system. An evidence to his statement was found true in almost all schools in the country. Since we are not all prepared to this situation, both teachers and students find it hard to participate in the new normal of education. Although the Department of Education prepared all the necessary needs, there are still shortcomings during the implementation period up to this day. And this resulted to the questionable performance of students. The validity of their learning through the assessment and outputs.

An example of this is when Bond (2002) found it difficult to assess the quality of his student's performance in an online instrumental music lesson since this competency needs student engagement in order to develop and improve skills and knowledge. Others like Conzemius and Sandrock (2003) stated that students at virtual schools achieved a lower improvement than those in traditional school of listening and speaking skills (Barker & Wendel, 2001). In addition, subjects like science and mathematics are proven difficult in teaching via online, modular or both. According to Schollie (2001), in his research on Alberta Online Consortium student's evaluation, they found that virtual school students scores are behind to those non-virtual school students. But according to a Meta-analysis on the effects of Distance Learning on K-12 students' outcome (Cavanaugh, Gillan, Kromrey, Hess, Blomeyer , 2004), Distance education is somehow as effective as classroom instruction. According to the study, learners can experience the same academic success in learning using gadgets and multi-media, and in the classroom setting. Meaning, student's who undergo Distance Learning, might be online or modular, can have quality education provided that the basic needs are met and are accessible to learners.

Meanwhile, according to a research from Dentistry Universitas Indonesia, 58.8% of their respondents are concerned to the truthfulness in the assessment result, due to student's dishonesty. Since students are doing tasks at home, some can answer activity sheets and formative assessment with the help of internet, while others ask their guardians to answer it for them, especially when they are in Modular modality. On the other hand, a research "COVID-19 and Distance Learning: Effects on Georgia State University School of Public Health Students" (Mensah, White, Yankey, Brown, 2020), they have listed down some positive effects of Distance Learning. Students can do tasks asynchronously, meaning they can go back and forth and do re-reading, skip or accelerate with the concept as they want, students can manipulate their lessons on their own pace. Some stated they save money, find more time in working with their assignments, bond with their family and friends, learns to manage their time, and shows flexibility in different workplaces.

In the article "Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Learning" (Bijeesh, 2021) it was stated that distance learning helps students perform multitasking. It also helps learners to study whenever and wherever while gaining recognitions. But also, this type of learning creates distractions, since there was no teacher around for face-to-face interactions. It also makes hidden costs especially when a learner is in an online learning. They need to invest money in order to buy computer and other gadgets, get a stable internet connection, have additional resources like printer, external camera and the likes. Others are for maintenance and electricity costs. Another is that teachers are being compromised. Due to distance learning, teachers as facilitators of learning, has been affected in some factors. In some cases, even if the teachers are performing well inside the classroom, they may not be comfortable in teaching whether by online, modular, or blended learning modality. Since not all teachers are capable to manipulate technologies, they are challenged to deliver quality education to their students.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The literature reviewed showed the positive and negative effects of Distance Learning Modality. The difference between the result of performance of students in conventional learning and distance learning. The effectivity of distance learning and the factors affecting its effectiveness. The findings confirmed that although distance learning creates positive impact in the learning delivery, some students tend to perform well inside the classroom, where they learned holistically compared to distance modality. Also, not all students have the capability to acquire the necessary needs to be part of distance learning, tendency, they failed to perform the given tasks. And for some reason, other studies identified that distance learning may be equal to traditional learning delivery in provision of the necessary tools needed. This literature review article will serve as future resources for another related research.

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