



EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING AS PERCEIVED BY TEACHERS IN GRADE SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to know the effectiveness of online teaching and learning as perceived by teachers in grade school as their chosen modality based on their submitted learning continuity plan. Using qualitative a descriptive phenomenological research design experiences of teachers in using online modality as teaching and learning platforms were highlighted. Respondents were three teachers from public elementary school and two teachers from private integrated school. Majority of the respondents concluded that online teaching help to ease teaching-learning process and assures a safer environment during this pandemic time. In this study also five major themes were developed Discipline and motivation in lesson engagement, Adjustments, Lack of Readiness and Preparation, Creativity and Enjoyment in the new normal, Dedication in Teachers' Routine, and Innovations in Assessment and Instruction thru Trends in Technology Inclusion which explain the effectiveness of online teaching and learning process.

Keywords: *Online Teaching, Learning Process, private and Public Schools*

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INTRODUCTION

Embracing changes that the pandemic brought us are welcoming how we should start our lives in this new normal. We learn not because we needed to but because it is part of the adaptation process that everyone should experience. It has been a challenging world to everyone as how each day starts in facing a new life. Issues have been circulating everywhere regarding on how people might survive in this pandemic – a pandemic that killed so many lives all over the world. The start of 2020 from its first quarter up-to-date gave us uncertainties if we can still witness the beauty of the place we lived in. A million dollar question that cost so many lives and test our determination on how to survive.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world”. This is one of the most powerful quotations delivered by Nelson Mandela which reminds us that we always have the power to change the world in any acts if there is an education. To be educated and being educated in this tough time that the world is facing is an achievement for survivors and dreamers who keeps in fighting for their goals. However, considering the situation especially platforms in learning will always be a challenge and a hindrance to someone who only affords limited means of education thru government support. How about the poorest of the poorest who only have enough and somehow less? How can education be an education by rights to them by this time? In this, we can see how the department or ministry of education together with the support from the administration works from time-to-time just to answer our needs to be educated. If we are going to deeply understand our own constitution, then, education is a legal right not a privilege. One of the major challenges that the Department of Education is facing nowadays is how to continuously sustain the quality education that we are aiming for our children. Due to the changes that COVID-19 pandemic brought to the world, education must be continued. Learning takes place as we believe that education is a right not a privilege. Hence, considering this situation, we believe that no one can stop in reaching every child’s dream.

Department of Education transitioned face-to-face learning in different learning modalities help the students and parents to choose the modality in their own convenience.

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Let us all remember that the only constant in this world is the word change. Hence, no matter how everything changes, we can still give the education needed by every Filipino in changing their lives. We work as one for the success of everybody and that how we see the changes that technology as a major platform in education can give us. Continuing to serve quality education in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic is one of the biggest defies that every ministry/department leader faces nowadays. Meanwhile, engaging in different innovations like technology integration in education is one of the major solution that we are looking as we seek for continuity in education. In education sector, the big question is how learning will go by this school year if the pandemic will continue. In the implementation of Resolution No. 35, s. 2020 released by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) which covers the implementation of the month-long lockdown from March 14 to April 14 in the entire Luzon, and the different classifications of community quarantine, unexpected changes happened in the entire country to our lives. This is to prevent the immediate spread of the global pandemic that hit the world including Asian countries. This pandemic brought changes in all aspects such as economy, transportation, health and even in education.

Considering the situation especially platforms in learning will always be a challenge and a hindrance to someone who only affords limited means of education thru government support. How about the poorest of the poorest who only have enough and somehow less? How can education be an education by rights to them by this time? Meanwhile, engaging in different innovations like technology integration and implementing distance learning thru modular- print and digitized modular in education are some solutions that we are looking as we seek for continuity in education. In education sector, the big question is how learning will go by this school year if the pandemic will continue. In pursuant to Section 3 of RA No. 7797-“, following the school calendar, which states that the school opening must be on the first Monday of June but not later than the last day of August. In response to continuity education amidst pandemic, the DepEd Central office released DepEd Order No. 12, s. 2020 on the 19th of June otherwise known as “Adoption of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for School Year 2020-2021 in Light of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency”. One of the main

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points of this order is the creation of the "Learning Resources and Platforms Committee" to ensure the appropriate learning resources of good quality are made available, and that necessary platforms of technologies (printed, digital, online, offline, television, and radio) are engaged or made available in timely and efficient manner. In this, the department assures that amidst pandemic, education continues. They prepared different modalities as a learning platform which will be stated in the Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) as a chosen modality both in public and private schools. In preparation, they also conducted surveys prepared by the central and division offices to every school involving parents and students as respondents in the learning modality they prefer. In this, their chosen school can prepare a better learning continuity plan which will be implemented throughout the school year.

According to Mobo et.al, (2019), elaborated in their research paper which was about effectiveness of E-learning that majority of the respondents thinks that e-learning education is very good in terms of giving the students time to be flexible, allowing them to study and do other chores or even work. In addition, the platform itself is a well-designed and a user-friendly webpage which makes it easy to study and to answer online activities. Thus, this means that we need to consider internal and external factors when for its effectiveness.

As per DepEd Order No. 007, s. 2020 which was released on the 11th of May, entitled "School Calendar and Activities for School Year 2020-2021" the opening of classes for School year 2020-2021 must be on the 24th of August. This is in connection to the compliance of RA No. 7797. However, Due to the calls of the parents and even students in social media questioning the preparedness of the department on the opening of classes prior to the given date also considering different issues raised by the teachers and division offices specifically in rural areas, RA 11480 has been implemented. This was a newly-signed law that gives the president power to move the school opening past August due to calamities, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Education. By this law, the president decided to move the opening of classes on the 5th of October. This will give an extension to the department to prepare the needed materials which will be using in the opening of classes prior to the given date and give training for teachers on how new normal in education must be done. As part of

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the changes, the Department released the amendment of DO. 007, s. 2020 which was the DepEd Order No. 030, s. 2020 which mandates the opening of classes on October 5 as part of the main changes in the school calendar. But due to the unexpected consecutive typhoons that beset our country just weeks ago, the Office Under Curriculum and Instruction headed Undersecretary Diosdado San Antonio released Memorandum OUCI-2020-307 which is also known as “Suggested Measures to Foster “Academic Ease” During the COVID-19 Pandemic” which stated that there is a need to calibrate the strategy assigning teaching responsibilities and learning activities to learners. This is to ensure flexibility in teaching and learning and reduces stress and burden to the multiple distance learning modalities. An adjusted date for every quarter in this school year was highlighted in this memorandum. The purpose of all of these adjustments is not only to ensure the presence of learning continuity but also to deliver quality education and consider teachers’ welfare amidst the global situation. Education during pandemic – as how we see it. Yet, honestly, it is a never-ending battle to humanity that deals on survival against the unseen enemy.

In the abrupt changes that this pandemic brought to us especially in our educational system, it is still a big question to all of us about the effectiveness of education continuity in this pandemic times. How can we assess that different learning platforms that the department prepared just to push this year’s academic year?

However, Daniel et. al, (2019) in their research study developing an e –learning framework emphasized that technology design should support the achievement of the aims and objectives of the instructor and the learning outcomes for learners. The current e-learning design is generally acceptable to respondents. The separate module for learning resources are helpful in organizing their files into folders. Furthermore, it gives on the importance on how technology design can be helpful on the online discussion and even in modular platform.

On the other hand, Neuman, et.al., (2013) in their meta-analysis study about differences between traditional and distance education showed that strong positive trend indicating that DE is an effective form of instruction. This analysis demonstrates that students

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engaged in DE academically outperform their F2F counterparts. However, we are considering factors that can mostly affect learning activities.

Meanwhile, Langenhorst, (2011), stated in his study about the effectiveness of online instruction that online education at the high school level was equally as effective as face-to-face instruction because of effective teacher interaction and the design of effective instructional activities in both learning modes. On part of the teacher comparing the two modes of learning, learning activities, techniques, and design were used successfully regardless of the learning modes. Thus, as he mentioned, online students met the challenge to develop the independent learning skills required. Students who are doing face-to-face classes were not challenged in this way because of the unique nature that online learning follows.

Moreover, Bakia et. al. (2010), in their meta-analysis study about based practices in Online Learning found that, on average, students in online learning conditions performed modestly better than those receiving face-to-face instruction. The difference between student outcomes for online and face-to-face classes—measured as the difference between treatment and control means, divided by the pooled standard deviation—was larger in those studies contrasting conditions that blended elements of online and face-to-face instruction with conditions taught entirely face-to-face.

Furthermore, Nguyen, (2015), in his study about effectiveness of online learning observed that observed that about 92% of all distance and online education studies find that distance and online education is at least as effective, if not better, than traditional education. About 3% of the studies compiled by the site show the reverse, that traditional face-to-face format is more effective, and about 4% show mixed findings. In this, we can say that online learning platform as means of learning has always been effective to those areas who are implementing this ahead of others. Thus, the aim of this paper is to know the effectiveness on the implementation of online learning as part of the changes that the department of education adopted in response to the continuity of education despite pandemic.

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As we face these struggles, we can always say to everyone that this is now the new normal and using online platform as means of education is what we needed just to continuously transmit learning and educate everyone especially young children about this new normal.

METHODOLOGY

In the present study, the researcher used qualitative method considering a descriptive phenomenological research design. The phenomenological approach is used to show and present the real experiences of teachers and pupils who chose online-learning as the main learning platform given by the Department of Education as choices of learning modalities for this school year amidst education in the new normal. Using this research design, we will find out how teachers in grade school deal with online learning as means of transmitting education in the new normal. We will also know about the different impacts in the adaptation of online modality in teaching and learning. Considering this design also is finding out how different learning modalities especially online learning in grade school change the perspective of teachers and learners in education from traditional to modern ways. Lastly, is we can determine the different measures of effectiveness in utilizing online teaching and learning platform. The authenticity of experiences in the teaching and learning process will be identified and noticed in this research paper. This study will be conducted in selected public and private school elementary teachers and students who chose online learning as their learning modality in the learning continuity plan (LCP) they submitted in their respected division offices before the start of the school year. Three teachers from public and two from private schools were chosen to be the respondents. A questionnaire was given to the respondents to answer the research questions needed. Follow up question and additional questions were done through during the interview.

This study seeks answers to the following questions: First, what are the impacts in the adaptation of online modality in the teaching - learning process? Next, how does change in

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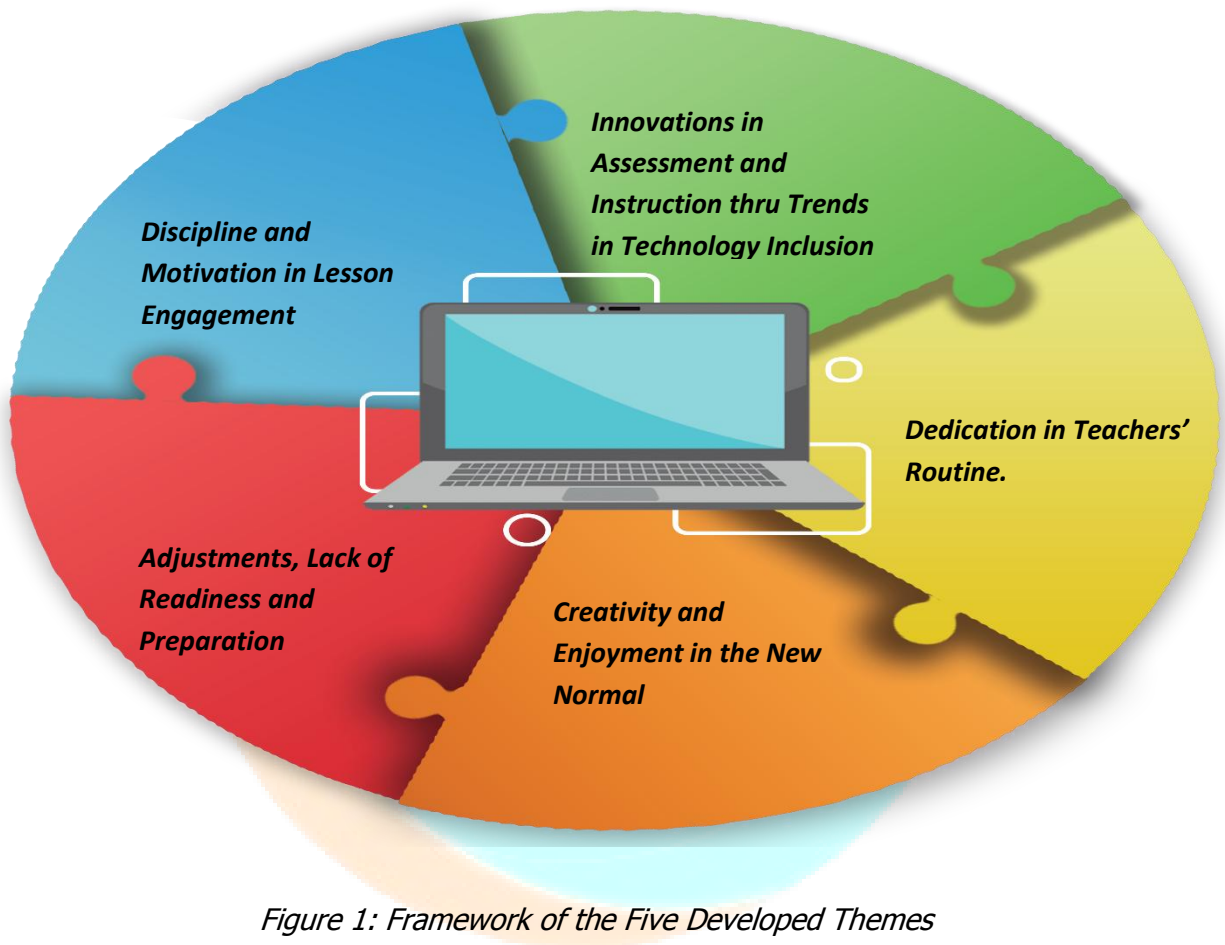
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different learning modalities affect the perspective of teachers and students? Lastly, what measures of effectiveness have you observed and utilized in an online teaching and learning?



Data Analysis

After the conduct of the interview though online and face-to-face platform to the respondents. the research transcribe all the data for coding. The researcher reread the

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answers given by the respondents. Next, he made an initial analysis of the data and made a separate noted on it. Third step was he developed an initial themes for the participant and looked for the initial notes and identified verbatim or word-like phrases emergent themes.

After which, there was a keen review on the notes for the selection of salient and specific themes for each participant. The next step was a deeper analysis level, wherein, themes and codes had a tabular presentation. Lastly, after changes and analysis were made and coming up to the presentation of themes and codes, an in-depth analysis had done for the results and its discussion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher presents the following results according to traditional IPA standards described by Smith, Flowers, and Larkin (2009). In this study, IPA was used to know how teachers emphasized the effectiveness of online-teaching as a chosen learning modality in this school year. Five major themes concerning to the effectiveness of online teaching in both private and public schools in grade school in this new normal were emerged in the data analysis. Themes identified in the data analysis were presented in Figure 1. First is ***Discipline and motivation in lesson engagement (1)***, Next is ***Adjustments, Lack of Readiness and Preparation (1)***, Then, ***Creativity and Enjoyment in the new normal (2)***, Followed by ***Dedication in Teachers' Routine. (2)*** and lastly, ***Innovations in Assessment and Instruction thru Trends in Technology Inclusion (3)***. These themes were developed based on how teachers in both public and private school teaching in grade school deals with the changes and the implementation of online learning in their class.

Theme 1: Discipline and Motivation in Lesson Engagement

In this new normal, our approach to our learners is very important. It will not only guarantee them that they will finish this school year because they complied with all the

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requirements but also because they were motivated to learn in this kind of set-up and discipline themselves to adapt in the changes that pandemic brought to our educational system. According to the study conducted by Karkami et. al. (2015), Teachers who used involvement and recognition strategies were perceived to be more effective teachers by their students. Also, productive discipline strategies such as recognition/reward, involvement and discussion more than counterproductive strategies like aggression and punishment.

As defined by Collins English Dictionary, Discipline is the practice of making people obey rules or standards of behaviour, and punishing them when they do not follow. However, in this new normal as how teachers defined discipline in their online classes, it is the practice that pupils and teachers themselves are adapting to engage themselves in these changes. Meanwhile, Motivation is the practice where we tend to do something better or increase our performance level because we are trying to achieve more and reach our targets.

One respondent stated:

"Adapting of online modality in the teaching-learning process has a huge impact in the teaching-learning process, either pros or cons. On the pros, adapting the online modality helps the teachers and the student to have self-discipline. Motivating students to listen is much easier. The teacher can use various animations and effects that can be added to the lesson." (R1, Public)

In this, we can see how teachers adapt on the changes that they are experiencing not only in the school system but also in the implementation itself, especially focusing on making your discussion more interactive in the eyes of the learners. It also motivates them to their better in every online presentation with their learners, as how their learners being motivated with the teaching techniques and dedication that the teacher is showing for them to learn.

The inclusion of technology in the newest way of teaching in the public school makes teachers' work easier. As what one participant said, *"It is easier to teach thru online especially in providing activities there are platforms that can make others various activities after that*

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have scores and easier for us to compute grades, it is easier to give instructions to children through videos, pictures and messaging applications and it is safer especially nowadays.”(R3, Public).

It is because you can easily give instruction and make it more enjoyable in part of your pupils because of the different animations and clip-arts or even transitions that they can see while instructions and assessment are being presented.

Teaching becomes more engaging in this new set-up in education as pupils continue to explore the essence of technology and its discoveries that can help in education everyone. Another participant said, *“It impacted so much to the lives of learners and Teachers to be more engaging in the world of Technology. These modalities help learning and teaching easier in this Virtual times”.* (R1, Private).

As teachers, we need to put ourselves in the situation of every learner in adapting new techniques and the learning modality itself. We can see also that teachers are enjoying this new learning set up- the online learning platform as they discover their creativeness when it comes to e-teaching.

Theme 2: Adjustments, Lack of Readiness and Preparation

In the adaptation of the changes that pandemic brought to us, is also assessing ourselves in our readiness, preparation and adjustments in the implementation process. Faculty attitudes on the importance of online teaching competency and their perception of their ability play a major role in how faculty approach online teaching goals, tasks, and challenges. Studies of online teaching competencies are important, as they provide information about how online faculty might be trained and supported by professional development initiatives in higher education institutions. (Budhremi et.al., 2019).

One participant said:

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"I, as a teacher rendering online teaching can say that Online teaching is undeniably difficult to administer.. There are lots of struggles that hinders the teaching and learning process especially given the situation wherein limited hours to rendered online teaching. I cannot guarantee the reliability and the validity of effectiveness on the teaching and learning process if I cannot amplify the knowledge and information to share because of limited time. Adapting to online learning is new to me. I have no proper training about how to use online platforms that can be use in rendering online classes." (R2, Public).

Because of the unexpected change that happened in our educational set-up, teachers are still in the quest of discovering the best techniques that they can do for the pupils to learn well. Meanwhile, it is also about on how they deal with their unpreparedness for some cases. This includes learning materials, revision of teaching materials, understanding new concept in curriculum implementation and implementing new programs in and out of the school premises which can always help their learners.

It also serves as a big challenge in our educational system since we are one of those countries in Asia which experienced a very slow internet speed. Everyone struggles in their internet connection whatever network they have. It is also a disadvantage for those who are in rural places where most of the times internet connection is weak, they cannot submit their requirements on-time or sometimes they are left behind in their topic. As one respondent said, "Teachers can expound and explore more her/his topic through different mediums of Teaching" (R1, Private). Furthermore, online distance learning as practiced by most private institutions, brings teachers to a difficult yet motivational teaching approach. The current situation brings a lot of challenge to teachers formulating "new normal" technological strategies on how to transfer knowledge into learning, considering the learning modalities that varies for each learner. (R2, Private).

Despite of the adjustments, lack of readiness and preparation in the adaptation of the new normal in education teachers are doing their hundred percent best just to give the quality education every learner needs. Also, the department of education are continuously conducting

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programs and trainings to enhance the skills of the teachers and gain knowledge which they can use in online teaching.

Theme 3: Creativity and Enjoyment in the New Normal

Teachers always seek for innovations; they are in the unending phase of discovering things which can help their learners perform well in all learning areas. In this pandemic time, teachers are showing their full creativity in any concepts to help their pupils understand the essence of education by its easiest definition also letting them enjoy education even we face crisis like this.

One participant cited that:

"It change their perspective that both learning and teaching can be done in creative way through online." (R1, Private). Despite of the challenges that new normal brought to us, flexibility and creativity of teachers still exist to relay a message even pandemic like COVID-19 should not stop everyone from learning.

Along the way is a learning that we can apply in all aspects, a content which is integrated in all learning areas and an activity that we must enjoy upon realizing the essence of education and appreciating teachers' sacrifices. Another participant mentioned that: *"At first, learners might be having a hard time in focusing on their studies online but with their teachers and parents' encouragements, they are now learning to enjoy and enhance their technological skills"* (R2, Private). Understanding this statement is realizing how support, encouragement and motivation from parents and teachers can help every learner to do well in their studies and how topics and classroom discussion be transformed into productive yet, enjoyable one.

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Theme 4: Dedication in Teachers' Routine.

We can never tell where and when the influence of a teacher stops. It is because of the dedication, affection, and sincerity a teacher is giving just for his pupils to learn. In this, new normal in education, we can see the dedication of our teachers be it in the distribution and retrieval of modules and to exerting efforts to their presentation for some who are having online classes. Before the pandemic, other than checking the attendance before the start of the class and telling the pupils of what to do once they enter the room, now, changes came, changes which focus on visitation and monitoring of the pupils' progress as part of their weekly routine. However, negative feedbacks regarding on how teachers' struggle in the adaptation in the new normal will always be present.

One participant said:

"To some teachers, they thought that the change in different learning modalities made their work much harder. They see their job as an endless routine, that even at midnight there are some parents and students still asking questions about the lessons. It also requires teachers to do house to house visitation if the students didn't comply with the school tasks given, knowing the risk of getting sick because of the virus" (R1, Public).

A proof how new normal in our education system brought to much adjustment to our teachers especially in their daily routines which before only ends in the four corners of the classroom, but now, it didn't actually end, it has no end at all cost because they are extending their hands to help children who needed them anytime. Also in answering parents' queries in difficult topics. This is what we need to consider and appreciate the dedication that every teacher is showing just to give education to every Filipino learners.

It is also difficult to adapt in part of the parents if their knowledge how technology is being used as a mode of learning is limited. Is they are lacking experience in using it and understanding difficult and advance features which everyone is using to make online discussion meaningful. One cited that " *Different learning modalities that we are using today*

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is somewhat hard to adopt to especially if there is no capabilities the parents has to teach his/her children and for those parents who are working. Sa new normal education natin today mas kailangan na may alam ang mga magulang dahil sila ang mas nakakasama ng kanilang mga anak at nasa kanilang mga kamay ang higit na responsibilidad pagdating sa edukasyon ng kanilang mga anak .” (R2, Public). We can simply analyze how advancement in technology will affect the learning capabilities of the pupils when it comes to advancement and innovation if he/she has a parent who is knowledgeable enough in the application of technology and the use of different social media platforms as means of learning.

Meanwhile, as (R3,Public) said that “*blended learning need to exert more effort because I need to teach the lesson and guide them in answering their modules and online activities but I can ensure that the learners understand the lesson*”. This simply shows the dedication of every teacher in giving too much effort just their pupils to learn and cope-up with every topic. Letting them understood the lesson by your materials is a form of dedication not only in attaining your objectives but letting your children learn the education they deserve. An aspect that we should always look upon as we appreciate how transition from face-to-face to different modality platforms affect the teacher when it comes to innovation.

Theme 5: Innovations in Assessment and Instruction thru Trends in Technology Inclusion

Gaytan (2010) in his study about online assessment found-out that online assessment must balance the requirements of technology, delivery, pedagogy, learning styles, and learning outcomes. That is, a wide array of online components, assessment criteria, and tools are needed to effectively and thoroughly assess student learning while meeting the challenges of accountability, reform, and students learning needs.

Innovations in assessing pupils’ performance is very important so that work will become easier in both sides. Teachers can diminish his time in checking paper work and

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recording data also in will give convenience to the pupils as they do not need to prepare and worry much on how their work will be assessed. Furthermore is the inclusion of the trends in technology in giving instruction and helping the pupils to understand the lesson in the simplest context.

One participant said:

"In teaching, the teacher should not utilize the online platform as if they are in the traditional classroom. Instead, the teacher should use different animations and effects during class to motivate the students. Allow the students to experience how to use share screen and collaborate with other students with the use of different online platforms". (R1, Public).

We need to apply the trends in technology for example Tiktok, IG, and Youtube to make our discussion more engaging in the eyes of the children as they watch and listen in your discussion and presentation. It will also motivate them to participate and include themselves in the discussion process. The use of effects and animations can be destructive once over used, that is why we need to select only those animations and effects which are good enough in the eyes of our learners.

Another respondent cited that:

"It is also a way for teachers to motivate them in managing their time while accomplishing their product according to the rubric. Exit pass and remodeling are some of the post assessment activities that are also effective in assessing the student's learning." (R1, Private).

Using modelling approach as a form of assessment can help the pupils understand more the concept especially if they found it unusual. It is the best way which can help your pupils to understand the presented lesson by using oneself a model. Furthermore, whatever

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the techniques and strategies that the teacher is using for assessment and instruction, it will always be on how we help our pupils to understand the lesson. In this new normal in education, we always seek for new ideas that can give long-term to our learners when it comes to learning the most essential competencies. This is about on how we adapt and implement the rules and programs that the Department of Education system is giving to everyone – a system that can address the needs to be educated during pandemic.

Conclusion

Online learning as a form of pandemic in education during pandemic shows that even in private and public school, majority gave a positive feedback regarding in the transitioned that happened especially in the new learning in using technology that it can give to pupils, parents, and teachers. By exploring the effectiveness of online education in grade school as perceived by the teachers, we found out that teacher took the transition in an optimistic way. Majority of the respondents stated how helpful online learning as a form of learning modality by this time. The development of themes which are ***Discipline and motivation in lesson engagement, Adjustments, Lack of Readiness and Preparation, Creativity and Enjoyment in the new normal, Dedication in Teachers' Routine, and Innovations in Assessment and Instruction thru Trends in Technology Inclusion*** explained to us that this adaptation will always have its pros and cons in all aspects. As teachers adjust for the changes, they also enjoy on how they can make their discussion even better each day by discovering different features of technology. Students also adjust not only by giving their time and in using technology as the medium of learning but also in comprehending why education must continue despite pandemic. As we also seek knowledge on how we can come up for a long term program for everyone, we also assess how this new normal plays everyone's game in learning. This is not only about excelling because of an advance knowledge but helping everyone to learn each concept and topic everytime someone found them hard to understand. This is how new normal should go, it is understanding the value of education and why

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education must continue in this very challenging time to everyone. We need to remember that
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – N.
Mandela.



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Memorandum and Resolution:

Department of Education, (May 11, 2020). *DepEd Order No. 007, s. 2020: School Calendar and Activities for School year 2020-2021.*

Department of Education, (June 19, 2020). *DepEd Order No. 12, s. 2020: Adoption of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan for School Year 2020-2021 in Light of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.*

Department of Education, (October 02, 2020). *DepEd Order No. 30, s. 2020: Amendement to DepEd Order No. 007, s. 2020 (School Calendar and Activities for School Year 2020-2021).*

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Philippines, (October 14, 2020). *Republic Act No. 11480: An Act Amending Section 3 of RA No. 7797 otherwise known as "An Act to Lengthen the School Calendar from Two-Hundred (200) Days to not more than Two-Hundred Twenty (220) Class Days" the opening of classes shall be deferred to October 05, 2020.*

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