

Managing Ecology of the Mindanao State University-Sulu College of Education: Under New Normal Condition

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Abstract: The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is responsible for more fatalities than the SARS coronavirus, despite being in the initial stage of a global pandemic. The first suspected case in the Philippines was investigated on January 22, 2020, and 633 suspected cases were reported as of March 1. The clinical and epidemiological aspects of the first two confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines, both admitted to the national infectious disease referral hospital in Manila. Because of the Said Pandemic- Covid 19, The Mindanao State University System (MSUS) Announced that the second semester of academic year 2019-2020 will be terminated effective immediately. In a memorandum addressed to campus chancellors and constituents, MSU President Dr Habib Macaayong said they shortened the semester because they gave "consideration of the preservation of life, safety and well-being" of the MSUS community. According to MSU Marawi's information office, the decision was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee and garnered majority consensus in the Board of Regents. Aside from the immediate end of the semester, the MSUS said that non-graduating students who have no failing grades or INC grades in the past semesters will be automatically promoted to the next year level. Students who have complied with their school requirements for the first 3 months of the semester will also get a grade of P. No failing grade will be given, except for students who have not been attending classes. These students will instead receive a "DRP (Dropped)" grade. Meanwhile, those who failed to submit school requirements during the said months will be given grades of INC. The memo added that grades obtained during the semester won't be included in the computation of a student's GPA or used as basis for giving of academic honors because of the "extraordinary nature of the second semester." No Dean's Lister will also be declared for the second semester.

Keywords: Classroom cleanliness, Enrolment practices, Modular learning, Progressive report, School environment, Student attendance, Social distancing, Teacher motivation, Use of facemask in the classroom, Washing facilities, 70% alcohol concentration Sanitizer.

1. Introduction

Ecology in the general sense of the term is defined as the study of organisms and the environment. It involved with the study of the relationships between living organisms and their interactions with their natural or developed environment. Managing ecology of the College of Education under the new normal condition involved planning, studying and observing

the changes of the conditions of the environment. The changes of the conditions of the students after the normality has been transformed and disturbed with the fear of the spread of the pandemic disease covid 19. The changes of the conditions of the classes after assuming to its normality.

In the past few years before the pandemic covid-19 has frightened, not only the Tausug of Sulu, but includes people in the world with a chronic disease called "Corona Virus" or known as the "Covid-19" which was branded by the World Health Organization as pandemic, the college of education was practically operating normally. That means the teachers meet the students regularly on time of their scheduled classes. The teaching and learning condition is functioning harmoniously between the school administration, students and the teachers.

Incidentally, the Covid-19 strike the people of Wuhan an area in the part of China. Many doctors and other civilians died because of the virus. The head of the hospital in Wuhan informed the world Health Organization the incident in Wuhan, which was taken by the World Health Organization as a serious calamity. The World Health Organization, through social media give the world a warning considering the situation of corona virus in Wuhan, China a serious calamity that can affect the world population.

The world was alarmed by the warning of the World Health Organization. The member of the World Health Organization in every part of the country take the responsibility to prevent the virus to enter the country, however, the virus become pandemic, which means affecting several people in many countries. The government has responded to the call of the World Health Organization to prevent the disease from contaminating individuals. Only then the government impose the use of face mask, social distancing, alcohol sanitation, frequent hand washing and home quarantine. The alarming situation affected everyone in the community. Therefore, putting the community into a catastrophe of abnormality. The schools were not allowed face-to-face classes, instead the DepEd, CHED and other educational institutions reprimanded and discouraged the conduct of face-to-face meeting of classes.

Currently, everyone has observed the situation by way of examining the number of cases in covid-19, practically, in Sulu

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declared the new normal condition. But, the alarming environment is still lingering in the mindset of the teachers, students and school administration.

2. Statement of the Problem

The traumatic feelings of covid 19 still in the mind and conscience of the students and teachers in the College of Education. It cannot be avoided to feel uncomfortable even the declaration of the new normal was assumed. Hence, this Journal will answer the following research questions.

1. How does Ecology of the MSU -SULU College of Education Managed?
2. What are the strategies that can be implemented in the New normal condition?
3. How do Teachers and Students motivated to restore classes in the new normal condition?

3. Conceptual Framework

Managing the ecology of the MSU – SULU College of Education under the new normal condition is the major concern of the school administration. The school administration initiated a plan of action to stabilize the operation of classes in the College of Education in the new normal condition.

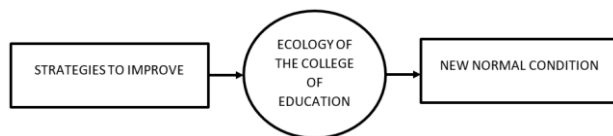


Fig. 1. The interplay of the variables

A. Ecology of the MSU – SULU College of Education

1) School Environment

The College of Education is equipped with beautiful and conducive teaching-learning condition, even before the Pandemic Covid-19. The school is well managed by the dean and the student leaders. The classroom is well organized, cleaned and maintained by the student leaders. The building is well fenced isolated from the other students from other departments. The students are composed of Bachelor of Education (BSE) majors in Science and Mathematics and the Bachelor of Elementary Education Students (BEED).

The students strongly supportive in terms of academic and physical activities at the time of the COED Day and University-Sulu Founding Anniversary. As a matter of fact, during the contest with other students in the other departments, Education Students got the lead in the Academic and Sports performances. The excellent performance of the education students have been observed during the years back contests.

The successful activities has been disturbed by the Covid 19 Pandemic. The face-to-face classes has been interrupted and substituted by the modular learning. The awareness and observance of the modular learning has begun since February 2020, the implementation has started in the middle of November 2020. The effectiveness of the modular learning is unpredictable, since the parents are helping their sons and daughters answering the module. The evaluation is not reliable and accreditable to the students' progress under evaluation. The

performance is well measured and assessed, but cannot be assured the credit for the students.

2) Student Attendance

Ever since, the pandemic was noted to strike the country, the government made the proclamation to all academic institutions to avoid face-to-face classes. The teachers were not allowed to meet their students inside the classroom. The distribution of module is done outside the classroom provided the students and teachers were observing the protocols designed for preventive measures of the pandemic. The students in the high school are not allowed to visit the school. Their parents are the representative to claim the module. The college students are allowed but completely used face mask and observed social distancing. The students in the College of Education were not checked for their attendance.

The students individually coming in and out of the school campus, especially the Education students were not allowed to enter the Education Buildings. The students are only allowed to claim their module as scheduled with their teachers. The online learning were practiced by some teachers, but the problem of weak signal disturbed the web available for zoom activities. Many students cannot attend the zoom learning because of the weak signal in many parts of Sulu. Online learning is not successful as a learning substitute for face-to-face teaching and learning. Some teachers developed a group chat for the students. They provided website where students can post their comments, suggestions and questions to their teachers.

3) Enrolment Practices

The MSU -SULU College of Education, just like other departments is enjoying the online enrolment processes. The teachers and students are encoded in the system. The students and teachers can verify the subject load in the system using their personal accounts in the system. Everyone has the right to open his/her own account.

4) Classroom Cleanliness

The classrooms are usually maintained and cleaned by the student government. The department provided the cleaning resources like floor wax, brooms, dust fan, etc. It is the initiative of the student government to help the department maintained the cleanliness.

The school ground of the College of Education is also maintained by the cooperation of the teachers and the students. There are teachers who voluntarily assist the students in the cleanliness drive of the school vicinity. Flowers and plants were also taken cared by the students and some volunteers.

5) School Progress

The College of Education is one the progressive departments in MSU-Sulu. The College is operated by the dean and the teachers. The cooperative efforts of the teachers, student government and the education students pulled up the progress of the department. Academic contests and sports competition made them champion during the MSU-Founding Anniversary. Trainings and facilities of the students were properly monitored and provided their own budget for the college activities.

Many students excelled in the cultural computation. They are model of excellence to perform the singing, dancing, oration, political rally, etc., that made them known and popular in the

campus. Education department is the home of excellence.

B. Strategies Implemented in the New Normal Condition

After a long time of lockdown in entire Philippines, the local government, at last declared the new normal condition as a recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. The new normal does not mean a total recovery from the danger of Covid 19 pandemic but rather a condition of “no new positive cases found” in the area. Continues observation of the Task Force Covid Protocols such as wearing of face shield and mask, washing of hands, use of 70% concentration alcohol, social distancing are all observed in the new normal condition. Large group assembly is still discourage and face-to-face class meeting still not tolerated.

1) Student Motivation

Through multimedia use the students are motivated to answer their modules personally to enhance learning even with the absence of their teachers. They are reminded to keep their efforts answering their module and have patient for being unattended by their teachers. The face-to-face classroom meeting is still unconceivable, the government has yet to decide as to the availability of the vaccine for Covid 19 pandemic.

The teachers keep on going to deliver the module as in the state of time before the new normal. The normality of the situations of the Covid 19 pandemic has no assurance as to when and how to stop. Everyone is endanger of the disease. No one is assured safe from the attack of the Corona Virus, so much so the new virus has been detected known to be a “mutation virus,” which accordingly easily contaminate but not deadly.

2) Teacher Motivation

The fight for Covid 19 pandemic is still on the march. Teachers should be motivated to extend more efforts and patient to keep them abreast of the educational progress using the modular learning approach. There are teachers who are too much exposed to the preparation of the module and exhausted to print and deliver to the students. They must be continuously motivated to render services to enhance quality education preferably the modular learning strategies.

The DepEd, CHED and other educational institutions should not limit the resources and support to the teachers. Some teachers are actually using their own personal money to provide the module for their students. This condition is discouraging on the part of the teacher. The school officials should exhaust extensive initiative to augment the teachers to provide the module to be delivered to the students. Otherwise, when these teachers got discourage, then the failure of providing quality education will be beyond the reach.

3) Modular Learning

There are teachers who were tap to produce the module. Although, there are samples sent from the region but is not enough to cope the number of the students. The teachers who were tap to undergo the production of the module should be given incentives and honorarium to motivate to work for the modular learning.

According to Barnett, et. al., (2002: 103) in teaching there are many methods which are being used. Some of them are assignment method, discovery method, lecture method,

discussion method, programmed learning, project method, field trip, case study method, demonstration method, modularized instruction. Modular teaching is a new approach in classroom settings, for experience taking in encounters in instruction also it has been getting much consideration. The system of taking in modules has turned into a piece of all level of instructions. Teaching through module is a self - taking in bundle managing one particular topic/ unit. It could be utilized within any setting helpful to the learner and may be finished at the learner's own particular pace. Sufficient hypotheses further more practices are accessible for the useful requisition of secluded educating in our classrooms. Consequently, a study was directed so as to check the adequacy of modular teaching. Got information was investigated, analyzed and results were drawn.

It's clear that many university students with a certain level of interactive technology embraced, but at the same time continually demanding more to fulfill their diversified needs of learning. Embrace the technology demands of their own class. According to the curve can be applied to today's generation of time university use technology every day and classes. The real challenge faced by university students is that higher inculcation is different from school and students cannot expect spoon-feeding. Increasingly, university heads are keen to verbalize about a partnership between institution and students. Knight (2002) points out that material on design work for edifiers orchestrating Programmes in higher inculcation are insubstantial. He suggests that there is a desideratum for advice on programme design and argues for texts to be developed to target concrete learning skills. The focus is the design of modules which form part of Programmes in higher inculcation. This study was focused to find out the effectiveness of modular approach in teaching in order to assess the student learning, performance and achievement.

4) Progressive Report

Varieties of teaching methods that will fixate on cumulating methods that can best realize the creative and constructive engagement with learning activities that leads to understanding (Ramsden, 1992). Even very good designed modules, with very well defined learning outcomes, can fail if the edification strategies employed are infelicitous to inspirit and support the learners towards meeting the desired learning outcomes. Toohey (1999) offers the following definition: “A teaching strategy is a plan for learning, and it includes the presentations which the teacher might make, the exercises and learning activities designed for students, audio-visual-aids which will be supplied or suggested for students to work with, in which they show of their growing understanding and capability will be collected.”

Modular teaching is one of the most widespread and recognizes teaching learning techniques in many countries including other Western countries and Asian region. Modular approach is used almost in all subjects like natural science, specifically in biology and medical education and even in social sciences as well as in computers education (Manlove and David, 1985). In considering the individual differences among the learners which necessitate the planning for adoption of the most appropriate teaching techniques in order to help the

individual grow and develop at her/his own pace (Kandarp Sejpal, 2013).

The utilization of such packages takes into account individual differences and sanctions students to work at their own pace. Individual learnt more at their own pace, because “Telling is not edifying and heedfully aurally perceiving is not learning. However, it is a process of first understand and then express the idea or knowledge. One of the largest changes in recent years has been the addition of technology education facilities with individualized instructional modules (LeBrun, 2001).

Each module has a distinct training element; it covers either a single element of subject matter content or a group of content elements objectives; preferably in behavioral form. A recognized level of proficiency or a qualification can be achieved through the completion of a series of modules. When vendors sell individualized instructional modules “the ability to manage the classroom” was mentioned frequently. Using individualized instructional modules reduces the time it takes teachers to develop a technology-based program.

Module developments promote practice to plan and develop modular materials. Module writers develop a common frame work for the design and development of modular materials. Brown and Atkins (1991) state that when designing modules, it is essential for teachers to be aware of concepts of deep and surface approaches to learning. Many researches have previously been conducted on the relationship between courses and the approach students take to learning. Biggs (1999). they found positive relationship between curriculum and learning approaches.

C. Strategies motivating students and teachers in the New Normal Condition

The students and teachers cannot be held without thinking of the consequences of being attack by the Corona Virus except, of course the discovered vaccine. As of the moment no one has the courage to counter the government and the Covid 19 Task Force protocols to keep the populace in safety condition.

1) Social Distancing

The students and teachers alike should favor the danger of being attack by the virus. The protocols of the Task Force Covid 19 such as social distancing should be practiced and adopted in full belief and affirmation. Anyone who violate this protocol, to the extent, of given due punishment and monetary fines. Social distancing is a length of space between two person standing or sitting for at least a distance of a meter apart.

Observance of this protocol assured by the World Health Organization safe from contamination of the virus. The virus is transmitted through the nose, mouth and hands. Sneezing is known for transmitting the disease from one person to the other. A distance of a meter beyond the reach of the contamination. The students should follow the protocol whenever the face-to-face classroom meeting will be resumed. Students should be reminded from time to time the observance of the social distancing protocol.

The students will be regulated by dividing the class into halves. The class of 40 students will be allowed in the class to

at least 20 students to avoid crowding of the classroom. After all the classroom of the College of Education has maximum capacity of 50 students. If the class of 40 students is allowed to enter the class, the class is too crowded to follow the protocol of social distancing. Hence, the class will be divided, the school administrator or the dean of the college should divide the class to allow alternate of class schedule, like for example, one section will be divided into A and B with the same schedule in the other day.

2) Use of Facemask in the classroom

The protocol of face mask wearing absolutely one of the precautionary measures to avoid the virus contamination. It was believed that the virus easily contaminates through the nose and mouth. The use of face mask inside the classroom may reduce the danger of contamination. Therefore, when the face-to-face classes will resume the students should practice and strongly encourage to wear the face mask.

Prevention of the covid 19 transmission using face mask protects one from danger of acquiringb7 the disease through physical contact. Sneezing, cough, and speaking will be prevented through the use of face mask. Hence, face-to-face class should constantly remind students to always wear their face mask.

3) 70% Alcohol Concentration Sanitizer

Students coming in and out of the classroom should be encouraged to use from time to time the 70% alcohol concentrated sanitizer. This method helped the students to destroy the virus in their hands. The study revealed that the corona virus cannot survived with high concentration of alcohol. It is appropriate to use high percentage of alcohol concentration. Using 70% alcohol concentration is recommended by the health specialist. They have the assurance that the use of alcohol can destroy the virus.

The students should make a habit of using the alcohol whether at home and in the classroom to keep them safe from the corona virus infection. The school officials should make announcement from time to time the use of alcohol while it is effective to kill germs and viruses. This protocol should be observed in the face-to-face classes of the College of Education Students.

4) Washing facilities

Washing frequently of hands is also recommended by the World Health Organization as a prevention strategy to be saved from covid 19 attack. The College of Education should establish washing facilities to be used by the students when the face-to-face classes resume. Water and the use of detergent such as soap and other sanitizer can prevent also the spread of the corona virus. The effectiveness of washing hands is also assured to help the students from the infection of the corona virus. Washing of hands regularly will protect the students while their hands are used in holding surfaces including their face, nose and putting the hands on their mouth will sneezing and coughing. The germs or virus in the hands will be killed by the detergent such as safeguard soap, bioderm and other sanitizer identified by the authority and recommended for its use.

The face-to-face class is better to encourage the students to

pursue better study habits. The teacher as a leader of the class can always remind the students of their responsibilities and commitment in their studies. The absence of the face-to-face class, one can expect deteriorating performance, especially those weak students. These students need the motivation and encouragement of the teachers while they encounter hardship and difficulties in learning their lessons.

Leadership has always been the subject of human study. This topic has been investigated by researchers, philosophers and historians time and again. In psychology, trait theory is an approach to the study of human personality (Bass, 1990). Trait theorists are primarily interested in the measurement of traits, which can be defined as habitual patterns of behavior, thought, and emotion (Kassin, 2003). In twentieth century, trait theories on leadership and motivation were started and after that philosophers and researchers start working on the formal theories of leadership. The researchers tried to find the leader's personality and character of leadership (Adair, 1984).

4. Conclusion

As an Educator of the Province of Sulu, Philippines Particularly in the Mindanao State University – Sulu, Capitol Site Jolo, Sulu. I am therefore strongly Conclude based on my little knowledge that the COVID – 19 Pandemic has affected

the world in various ways. The need for accurate information, and the rapidity of its dissemination are important as this Pandemic requires the cooperation of the people, the Government must be taking in action to prevent the spread of the said virus covid-19. Imposed Laws and people must follow the rules so that the spread of the virus must be preventive and all are must follow the safety Protocol of every LGUs. Take note Stay at home to prevent the infection of the virus our health is our life.

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