

A Teacher's Reflection
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March 2020 when Covid 19 hit the Philippines... All of a sudden, classes were suspended, classrooms were closed, everyone was locked. Everything drastically changed. The whole world literally stopped. Everyone was filled with terror. The future suddenly becomes uncertain.

As a teacher who always stays late at night to prepare for the lesson the next day, as a teacher who has been longing for break and rest, as a teacher who is always eager for the Holidays to come to spend some time with your own families, this was quite good. This means more sleep, more rest, more time to do household chores, more time to accomplish personal matters, more time for the family. A situation that had never happened before, and was never imagined by anyone to become possible. But it is also a situation that every teacher might have secretly wished for to happen. You were able to prepare decent meal for your family. You were able stay late at night watching a good movie. You were able to catch up on reading your favorite book. You enjoyed doing the things that you have not done before.

But as days became weeks, weeks became months, and months became year, the struggles came in....You become restless. Something does not feel right anymore. You were longing to see your classroom. You suddenly realize that you miss the noise of the students, you miss the oral recitation, and the role playing, the discussion and the grouping . You miss the famous lines " ma'am/sir, may I go out/", or " Sorry I'm late". You miss your usual lines such as; "Bring out one half sheet of paper, number your paper from one to ten", "Who is absent for today?", "Who got a perfect score?..."You miss doing the home visitation to check on students who failed to attend or had problems in class. You miss the foundation week wherein you see your students excel in different fields. You miss your routinary activities for two decades as a teacher. You never even thought that you will miss all these things. You suddenly then prayed for all these to come to an end so that you will be your normal "you" again. But Education must continue. Learning should not stop regardless

of whatever situation there is. ...Then modules and online teachings paved their way. Something that is new to many of the teachers, especially the seasoned ones. You needed to prepare power point presentations and video lessons, and be “techie” all of a sudden, and there is no other option but to adapt. You needed to buy your own laptop, buy your own printer for the printing of modules and learning Activity Sheets, install an internet connection at home. It was indeed a difficult thing in the beginning and how you have wished for the old days that you were used to come back.....but eventually you have adjusted, you learned all the difficult terms, gradually adapted with the “new Things”, . You learned the Zoom and the Meets, the google classroom and how to save soft copies in the drive.. You were able to create your own video lessons. Your chalk and blackboard have been replaced by google forms and google classroom, with laptops and internet connection on the side. You were able to find a way to know your students in a deeper level even without seeing them personally. These and more are the things that you never thought you would be able to learn. And here you are now... a well browsed teacher, a better one, who can teach confidently whether face to face or online. Come to think of it, this pandemic just proved one thing... that you are indeed a teacher, not “just a teacher”. A teacher who is willing to do everything for the sake of the students. A teacher who will make every way possible for learning and change to take place in the lives of his or her students. A teacher who can confidently say” Whatever comes my way, I can always make a way. Bring it on”...

When the face to face classes resume, you are no longer your old “you”. You have learned to become an upgraded version of yourself. Although your tasks have been greater, and the burdens you carry become heavier, you do not go out to the street and demand for an additional compensation. You work in silence and your progress speaks out for you. You do all these for the love of your learners and for the profession who have committed yourself to. Whenever you doubt yourself, remember, the road might still be long, but you are on the right track, and that is what matters.

“ Take heart and be of good courage.” You are doing a great job TEACHER!