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Research Article

Lived Experiences of the Senior High School Learners at Goshen School of Technology and Humanities During the Covid 19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 had a strong impact on our economy, government, health care, and particularly on the education system. This study explored the lived experiences of Senior High School learners enrolled at Goshen School during the Covid-19 pandemic. The study applied Colaizzi's Method in the data analysis and interpretations to identify meaningful information and organize it into themes. Themes that came out from the narratives of the participants were: They experienced issues on their learning modality, financial, technological, mental health, and lifestyle issues; Covid-19 Pandemic affects the personal, social, mental, and academic performances of the senior high school learners, and needed support system from family, peers, school, and community. The output of this study is a proposed model for senior high school learners during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Keywords: Covid 19 pandemic, Senior high school learners, Lived experiences issues, Goshen School of Technology and Humanities, Boracay Island

Introduction

COVID-19 had an immense impact on our economy, government, health care, and particularly on the education system. According to (gov. ph, 2020), DepED Secretary Leonor M. Briones along with other Southeast Asian Education Ministers tried to address the disruptions by various education strategies during the first Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Ministerial Policy e-Forum last June 18, 2020, to ensure that learning must continue and at the same time manage

the impact of COVID-19 on Southeast Asia's education landscape. The purpose of this study is to explore the lived experiences of Senior High School Learners enrolled at Goshen School during the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Colaizzi's method in research was used during the data gathering and analyses. Out of the constructs of the participants, themes came out like the Senior High School learners experienced issues in the area of learning modality, financial, technological, psychological, and lifestyle routine issues; Covid-19 pandemic affects

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the personal, social, mental, and academic performances of the participants; and the learners needed support system from family, peers, school, and community to stay afloat with their academic journey during the pandemic. The output of the study is the proposed model for Senior High School Learners during Disruptions.

Objectives

1. To explore the lived experiences of the Senior High School learners at Goshen School of Technology and Humanities during the Covid-19 pandemic;
2. To determine the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on their personal, social, mental, and academic performances; and
3. To identify the supports needed by the Senior High School learners in coping with encountered issues as they pursue their academic journey during the pandemic.

Literature Review

The (CNN Philippine Staff, 2020) and (Smalley, 2020) both agreed that the top issue of choosing the most suitable mode of class for a student is how accessible this mode can be for the learner. They deduced that the internet connection is a big barrier for accessing the online learning modality redirecting them to their second option which is the modular learning mode, which also has flaws due to the late distribution of these materials to the learners due to its quantity.

Smalley (2020) also referred that the financial crisis seems to also extend not only to families but also to institutions being financially unstable due to the reduction of their revenues and unexpected expenses to operate during this pandemic. It seems that education comes with a cost during these times of crisis and mostly the privileged ones have the most access to quality education.

Navarosa (2020) opined that our country ranks in the slowest internet speed among other countries, the top technological issue in remote learning is associated with the internet connection. Buffering and the lagging connection are always a hassle, especially in online learning.

According to (Baloran, 2020) students have been forced into this situation and now they are looking for ways to cope with the challenges of their mental health.

Mosuela (2020) opined that before quarantine, the average student's daily life involved waking up, getting prepared, going to school, doing school works, some head to their part-time job, and returning home. But because of the COVID 19 pandemic, every student's life has changed.

NASP (National Association of School Psychologists, 2020) stipulates that learners will depend and will always look for guidance especially in the current situation. Establishing a healthy routine with the whole family and enjoying the time together by acknowledging different concerns regarding the pandemic can help learners reduce and manage their difficulties.

Nemandoust, (Brown et al., 2020) reported a majority of teens to connect with their peers through calling and chatting with the use of their gadgets, and neighborhood peers also became closer because of the pandemic. Communicating virtually will never have a similar or equal impact to communicating in person but it is a good substitute for communication during a pandemic.

According to (Camero, 2021), teachers' teaching style and positive attitude help learners be satisfied and motivated. Since many lifestyles of students remain to circle between their house chores and school tasks, having good communication with teachers gives a large part of what students experience every single day.

The community of the learners is a significant factor in their distance learning journey (Cooper, 2020). Having a serene learning environment exudes psychological support by being in a pleasant and comfortable space for learners to be more motivated in learning.

Methodology

This is a qualitative research approach specifically a phenomenological study that involves a non-numeric data analysis and focuses on understanding human concepts, opinions, behaviors, and experiences. The study utilized

Collaizzi's Method in data analysis and interpretations to identify meaningful information and organize it into themes. This study was conducted at Goshen School of Technology and Humanities, Boracay, Island, Malay, Aklan from February 2021 to April 2021. To gather the information that is relevant to this study, purposive sampling was used. There were ten (10) individuals who participated in this study. The researchers gave the participants a rundown on the objectives of the study and their significant roles in the data collection. This qualitative research followed ethical principles due to the in-depth nature and process of the research that was being undertaken. Ethical considerations were observed during and throughout the conduct of the research.

Results and Discussion

The results of various interviews from different participants for the answers to the sub-issues and support systems are divided into themes on various lived experiences of senior high school learners. The themes that come out from the answers of the participants are:

Theme # 1: Senior High School Learners Experienced Issues on their Learning Modality, Financial, Technological, Mental Health, and Lifestyle Issues.

The participants experienced several difficulties and challenges during this pandemic; specifically, they experienced issues like their chosen learning modalities, financial, technological, mental health, and lifestyles. They revealed their struggles in the sudden transitions of the learning modalities, from face-to-face to remote learning. Sometimes the teachers' lectures are unclear and cannot cater to the students' queries immediately through messaging apps that result in students commencing self-study. They were also financially challenged due to the economic effect of the pandemic, this caused worries to parents and affects the mental health of the learners. Some are not privileged enough to afford a home plan Wi-Fi or even load for mobile data. Also dealing with radiation most of the time is unhealthy but for the sake of their studies, they endure it. In addition, their lifestyles had changed drastically resulting in limited socialization; most of their time is

only spent doing their studies at home and household chores. Because of all of these circumstances and inconvenience it has taken a toll on their mental health, they experienced anxiety attacks and some even experienced depression. But fortunately, by being at home, they got to bond with their families and that is one of the things they are thankful for this pandemic.

Theme # 2: Covid-19 Pandemic Affects the Personal, Social, Mental, and Academic Performances of the Senior High School Learners

The Covid-19 pandemic affected the participants' relationships, social relationships, mental health, and academic performance. Their relationships with themselves and their family changed because of the pandemic, they had noticed the bonds of their immediate family became stronger and progressive than before. Their time with their friends got limited so they only use social media to communicate. During the span of this pandemic, they revealed further in the interview that they indeed changed when it comes to motivation and mental health. Their mental health is affected drastically as according to them they are sometimes mentally unstable, and struggle to be productive which resulted in some of their academic performances being affected, while some seem to be more focused on their school tasks and learning because of being distanced from other disruptions.

Theme # 3: To Cope with the Pandemic the Senior High School Learners Needed Support System from Family, Peers, School, and Community

To cope with the pandemic there are support systems to assist the participants, supports such as family, peers, school, and community. The participants shared that family is the closest and immediate persons you are with during this pandemic, they suggest support from their families such as comfort, guidance, motivation, and any kind of support they can offer. Also, the importance of being able to provide enough financial support and other things for learning is wanted. Some participants confessed that their peers are closer to them

compared to family, communication and moral supports from peers is a major factor to ease their minds. As for support from the school, they ask for understanding, adjustments, and considerations for learners like them, balance workload, and lessen the demands of requirements. Support from the community such as financial and basic necessity supports from their barangay offices and lessen the noise disruptions their neighbors make during online classes.

Conclusions

The Covid-19 pandemic brought a lot of problems that affect the lives of the Senior High School learners enrolled at Goshen School of Technology and Humanities. The Senior High School learners experienced issues on their learning modality, financial, technological, mental Health, and Lifestyle Issues that affected them in various and critical ways. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic affects the personal, social, mental, and academic performances of Senior High School Learners as they pursue their academic journey in times of disruptions. Supports from parents, peers, schools, and the community play a vital role in Senior High School during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

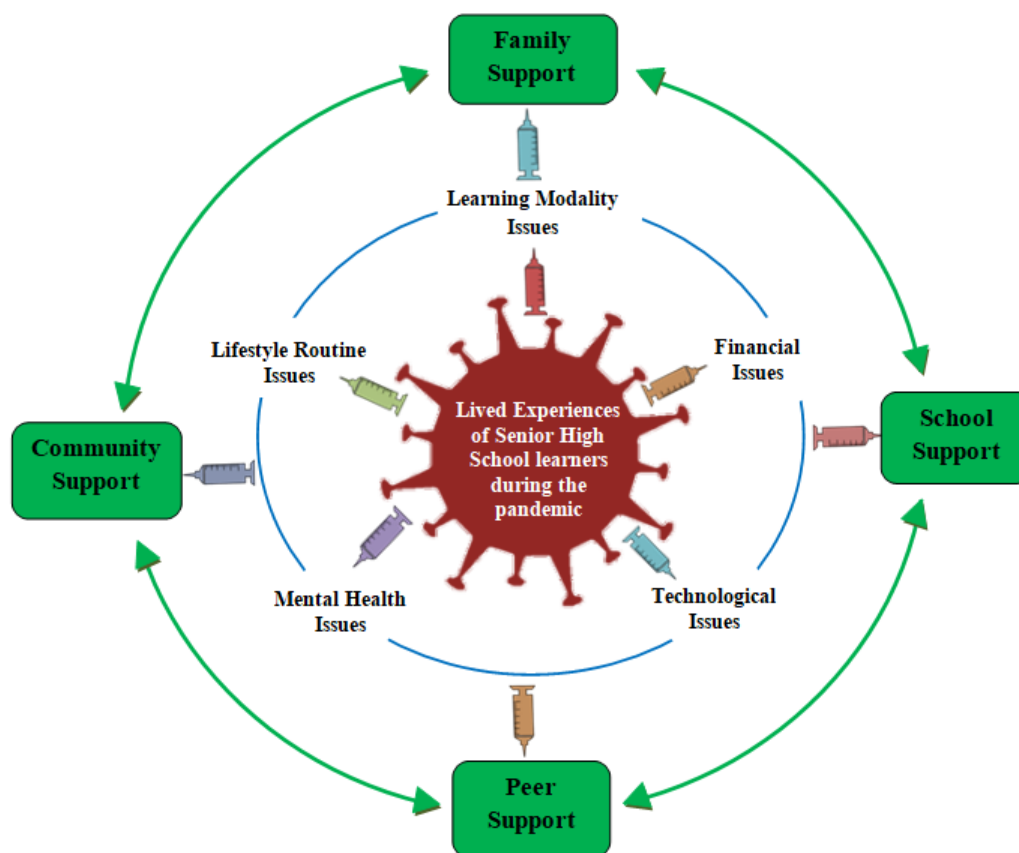
It is strongly recommended that for the Senior High School to stay afloat during the Covid-19 pandemic strong supports from parents, peers, school, and community is needed. This supports will keep the learners remain to focus on their studies; stay positive and resilient to go over different issues that confronted their day-to-day learning activities. A model on Taunan, Barcelona, Sandoval, and Flaviano on the Senior High School learners during the pandemic is proposed. Further research will be conducted.

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Appendix A. Taunan, Barcelona Sandoval, and Flaviano Model on the Senior High School Learner Academic Resilience During the Disruptions



The Covid-19 dramatically hit the world including the learners. A lot of schools closed during this time that affects the administration, faculty and staff, and the learners. The schools have no option but to engage in flexible learning that affected learners in terms of learning modality, financial, technological, mental health, and lifestyle routine issues.

The new normal prohibited the conduct of the usual face-to-face learning that resulted in the use of new learning modalities such as Online, Modular and Blended Learning. Issues to learning modalities arose when the learners experienced difficulties and barriers to their chosen mode of learning. The pandemic also caused the loss of economy and livelihood to most of the people resulting in financial difficulties for every family and learner. Despite

these financial issues, parents tried their very best to provide for the needs of their children. Another issue is the use of technology or learning apps that requires adjustment. Included here is the intermittent internet connection during online classes that brought irritations to some. These sudden transitions from “Brick and Mortar Class” to remote learning cause stress to the participants of the study in terms of coping and lifestyle routines as part of their socialization.

To cope with these adverse effects of the pandemic the participants needed supports from the family, peers, school, and community. No man is an island. One could not negate the fact that during adversities we find refuge in our immediate family and the people and institutions closer to us.