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THE TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF MATHEMATICS TEACHERS IN ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

A Thesis Presented to the

Faculty of the Graduate School

College of Education

West Visayas State University

La Paz, Iloilo City

In Partial Fulfilment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Education
(Mathematics)

by

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April 2024

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Laserna, Dibralyn F. "The Trials and Triumphs of Mathematics Teachers in Online Distance Learning." Unpublished Thesis, Master of Arts in Education (Mathematics), College of Education Graduate School, West Visayas State University, Iloilo City, April 2024

Abstract

The abrupt implementation of Online Distance Learning has transformed mathematics pedagogy, compelling teachers to adapt to technological advancements. This study sought to determine the trials and triumphs experienced by mathematics teachers in online distance learning and its implication to mathematics education. To address this problem, qualitative phenomenological methodology was used. The researcher utilized purposive sampling to choose the six (6) informants of the study who were Junior High School Mathematics Teachers in one (1) of the public schools in Iloilo and taught in an online distance learning, specifically, using live synchronous instruction in the new normal. Data were collected and analyzed based on the sequence of activities stated in Groenewald's (2004), and Hycner's (1999) phenomenological research procedure. Three (3) major themes emerged from the analysis of the data: The Stormy Sea: Trials of Online Teaching, A Mountain's Peak: Triumphs of the Cyber Classroom, and A Digital Archipelago: Implications to Education. Results of the study showed that the trials were internet connection and power issues, poor student engagement, exhausting workloads, mental health issues and classroom management glitches. However, the triumphs included learning new skills, developing resourcefulness, creating engaging and motivating activities, and promoting individual initiatives and collaboration.

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Practical findings from the study suggest that teaching in online distance learning requires comprehensive training for teachers, use of interactive teaching methods, contingency plans for internet or power disruptions, and continuous exploration and collaboration among teachers. It is recommended that teachers should engage in ongoing professional development, learners should prioritize self-motivation and time-management, other stakeholders must support schools in acquiring technology, and other researchers should explore emerging technologies and best practices in online learning.

Keywords: online distance learning, new normal, trials, triumphs, mathematics, technology, Mathematics.

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