

## Coping Mechanism of Kindergarten Parents in a Modular Learning Education for the School Year 2021-2022

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### ABSTRACT

Parents, teachers, and students were equally affected by the widespread prevalence of COVID-19. Parental involvement in the education of students begins at home, providing a safe and healthy environment, appropriate learning experiences, support, and a positive attitude about school (Durisic & Bunijevac 2017). A descriptive qualitative study was planned to explore the experiences of parents coping mechanisms. The purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. Data were collected from 35 kindergarten parents; through an open-ended question. Three major themes emerged after the data analysis: the teaching experience of a kindergarten parent, the coping mechanism, and the most suitable approach used. It was analyzed that their parent-children's relationships positively influenced the coping-up mechanism. The child's behavior, what interests them most, and not overworking them with the modules were also considered. It is recommended that in-depth orientation about the learning mechanism be included during Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC).

### Keywords:

coping mechanism;  
kindergarten parents;  
new normal; modular  
learning education;  
pandemic

### INTRODUCTION

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, like any other critical sector, education has been hit hard. With the start of the school's closure in the year 2020, parents have been left no choice but to become learning facilitators at home to continue their child's education. The Department of Education implemented a Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) in response to the challenges posed by the pandemic in the field of basic education. As a result, different learning modalities were offered on whatever is applicable in different schools' locations and ideal to the parents' and learners' preferences.

A lot of adjustments and adaptations had been made by the school's officials, teachers, learners, parents, and other stakeholders to cope with the new normal education setting. Parental involvement in the education of students begins at home with the parents providing a safe and healthy environment, appropriate learning experiences, support, and a positive attitude about school (Durisic & Bunijevac 2017). Thus, the parent as a first teacher plays a significant role in a student's educational success. They should get involved in supporting their children in doing their homework; in this way, they offer their parental support as one of the key

strategies leading towards a successful education of their children (Ceka & Murati 2016).

However, parents' educational attainments significantly influence children's knowledge, skills, and values (Idris et al., 2020). The educational level of children in the family depends more on the level of the parent's education, so this factor strongly affects family relationships and the successful development of children. (Matilov, Naum. 2002). Education is a basic human right. However, even before COVID-19, 250 million children and youth were out of school, and 800 million adults were illiterate ([www.camampaignforeducation.org](http://www.camampaignforeducation.org)). This study will determine the experiences of kindergarten parents in modular distance learning and their coping mechanism, as well as their strategies that are appropriate for facilitating learning outcomes at home.

### **PURPOSES OF THE RESEARCH**

While the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) acknowledges the public health decision to close schools, we believe that contingency plans should be in place to ensure the right to education even in times of crisis. That is why the DepEd introduced modular learning during a pandemic. GCE is convinced that all learners have a right to education no matter where they live and circumstances. Teachers and academe and the parents and support mechanisms of learners, should support the necessities needed by learners like mobile devices and mobile networks for online learning and the home environment or climate that can make learners improve their interest in the learning (Avila & Genio 2020). This study considers determining the coping mechanism of a kindergarten parent in a modular learning education set-up during the new normal. With this study, the different practices and challenges of a kindergarten parent will be revealed and will become a guide to a parent in teaching at home. Furthermore, different strategies of parents will be studied, developed, and recognized in the field of education. This study sought to answer the following: Determine the teaching experience of a kindergarten parent during the pandemic; Identify the coping mechanism of a kindergarten parent in a modular learning education during the pandemic; and Find the most suitable approach for the parent teaching their kindergarten learner during the pandemic

### **FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY**

The study aimed to explore parents learning perceptions and their beliefs about their kindergarten children's realization of modular learning modality with their help as a facilitator at home. This study also aims to associate their coping mechanism in teaching kindergarten children. "One must know how to adjust to the changes and that despite the many uncertainties, teachers and parents must turn them into opportunities that will help in continue achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 4, which is "quality education"—even amidst the pandemic" (Scoular 2009). Also, this study helps them acquire their most suitable teaching management at home during a pandemic. A parent reiterated:

*(Una po, kinakausap ko muna siya, pinapaliwanag ko muna bakit kaylangan niya magmodule. Pakatapos, maglalaro na siya. Yan ang aking ginagawang diskarte para di siya mag-isip ng iba at makatutok siya sa pagmodule).*

(First, I must explain why this module is needed for my kindergarten kid. Then, he can play. That is the strategy that I used so that he could focus on the module).

Being reasonable in teaching your kindergarten kid their module during a pandemic is an essential strategy that parents can use at home. Shifting from a face-to-face learning mode to distance learning like modular is not an overnight ordeal. It needs much trial-and-error technique. A plan and expectation should be of great emphasis to make this learning strategy happen.

Kindergarten pupils were the object of struggle, especially on their learning proficiency as a beginner. So, kindergarten parents were among the target of difficulties of this modular learning modality.

Parents have to deal with the critical issues of disrupted education. Parents with little knowledge find it hard to cope with the modular modality. In addition, working parents also encountered the problem of lack of focus on their job and not considering the battle of giving time to teach their kindergarten children at home. In the thesis of Añoda (2019), "Explicating the Lived Experiences of Parents with Multiple Learners in Modular Learning Modality: A Narrative – Phenomenology," parents in this level cannot help their children with the activities in the module for they too have no capacity in dealings such because of their educational background (International Institute of Educational Planning 2020)

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study used a qualitative research design employing a descriptive research approach to identify the real-life events during the pandemic. As a phenomenological study, it sought to determine a kindergarten parent's experiences, coping mechanisms, and suitable approach to a modular learning education during the new normal set-up in the basic education curriculum. Participants of this study were the 35 parents of kindergarten learners in Nabua Central Pilot School in San Nicolas, Nabua, Camarines Sur. Five parents were chosen for each seven-kindergarten section in the given elementary school. The willingness of the parent was the basis of choosing the sample participants.

As an ethical consideration, a letter was made by the researchers and was approved by the DepEd Schools Division Superintendent of Camarines Sur. After the approval, the letter was acknowledged by the Nabua Central Pilot School's Principal, where the researchers conducted interviews with the kindergarten parents. The interviews were conducted when the parents sent their children to school at their convenience with their consent. After the data had been collected, the researchers conducted a focus group discussion to consolidate the data gathered and to come up with the best findings and recommendations of the study.

The instrument used for this study was a structured researchers-made interview questionnaire resulting in three (3) questions related to the study's objective; to properly extend the queries and determine the coping mechanism used by the parents in teaching their kindergartens during pandemics validated by our professor. Researchers' expertise in testing and qualitative analysis was used in critiquing the questionnaire used in this study.

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- Greet the parent and introduce yourselves with your full name and title.
- How are you today?
- State the purpose of your interview.
- How many kids do you have/at school?

(As a parent, describe your experiences teaching your kindergarten child during this pandemic.)

*Ipaki larawan po kung ano ang naging karanasan ninyo sa pagtuturo sa inyong anak sa Kinder ngayong pandemic.*

(How could you cope with the challenges in the modular learning modality used during this pandemic regarding the following?)

- Modular
- Online sources
- Tutor
- The teaching of family members

*Papaano po ninyo natugunan yung mga hamon sa pagtuturo gamit ang mga sumusunod na pamamaraan?*

- Modyular
- Teknolohiya
- Pribadong pagtuturo
- Pagtuturo katulong ang ibang miyembro ng pamilya

(What has been the hardest part about moving on to the modular class modality during this pandemic?)

*Alin po ang pinakamahirap na bahagi ng pagsasagawa o pag gamit ng modalidad ng modyul sa pagtuturo sa klase ngayong pandemic?*

(As a parent, what do you think is the best strategy that you are using for your kindergarten child during this pandemic? Why?)

*Bilang isang magulang, ano po sa palagay ninyo ang pinaka mabisang diskarte o paraan nang pagtuturo na gamit ninyo sa inyong anak sa kinder ngayong pandemic? Bakit niyo po nasabi?*

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### ***The Teaching Experience of Kindergarten Parents During the Pandemic***

The COVID-19 Pandemic caused widespread devastation and robbed us of our right to live normally. This tragic tragedy did not spare the educational sector. Due to this pandemic challenge, most schools have closed, but the learning process must remain active even without face-to-face classes. Thus several educational sectors migrated to other effective and suitable learning modalities. Secretary Briones of the Department of Education (DepEd) assured that "education must continue even in times of crisis." To address this issue, the Philippine Education

System used updated teaching methodologies. As to this statement, the researchers want to know from the kindergarten parents of Nabua Central Pilot School how they were able to cope with the challenges in learning modalities used, to wit: Modular Approach, Online Sources Approach, and Tutorial Session.

Based on the interview, out of 35 Kindergarten parents, 29 parents chose the modular (teaching of family members) approach, two parents selected the online sources to approach, and four parents decided on the tutorial session.

The majority of the Parents preferred to have Modular Approach as a teaching modality. Kindergarten Pupils were given printed materials prepared by the school and completed learning tasks and assignments while at home. They chose this learning modality because they consider this the best fit for the needs and interests of their children, where parents are expected to play the role of a teacher as they help and guide their children.

Being a parent-teacher at home, different teaching experiences of kindergarten parents were revealed in this study. It found out that most of the parents' experiences were hard and not easy as the learners do not have any foundation of knowledge in school yet. It tested the parent's patience when their child did not understand the module lesson. This is because their child is bored, and their attention is on playing games and watching TV. If the learner's attitude was spoiled at a young age, it becomes hard for the parent to take control of teaching. In addition, parents stated that a strict parenting style makes the child unable to concentrate, and there is no excitement when doing their lessons. Given that not all parents have a higher understanding of the lesson for their kids, some struggle with how they will simply teach the lessons that the kids can easily comprehend to their strategies.

Two (2) parents selected Online Sources Approach as the best fit learning modality for their children. Students attend classes online and submit materials and homework. Using Digital Technology allows them to connect virtually with their teacher and to have meaningful and fun learning while completing their task. As the world progresses and technology is widely used, the pupils learn to use it with expertise, especially as a tool for learning at an early age. On the other hand, there are several reasons why most parents didn't choose this approach. First, they have limited or no access to the internet. Second, they found it expensive to install at home. Lastly, they might neglect to guide their children properly as they have easy access to other Internet Content that might distract them from learning. However, findings that a variety of factors influence students' academic success during e-learning, including teaching methods, psychological factors, proficiency level, and language skills, which can prompt them to develop learning strategies based on their exposure to various educational technologies used by their professors or required of them. (Avila et.al 2021)

Some parents have chosen Tutorial sessions as an alternative approach to help their children learn more effectively. Hiring a tutor will ensure the children receive the education they deserve without inferring from the parents' schedule. It is challenging for them to go to work while still educating the child. Having a tutor guarantees that the children acquire the knowledge they need and also get an advanced study for the next lesson. However, there are a few reasons parents have not decided on having a tutor; it is costly, and they want to monitor their children's progress independently.



As a result, also of this study, the best way to teach their kids is by having day-to-day study time to establish a learning habit. It is also important to consider the mood of the kids and give them a joyful ambiance to stay focused and have fun while studying with their presence. Providing rewards is also a very effective motivation to actively participate in their lessons. Though parents have so many difficulties teaching their children, they give extra effort to teaching them using cooperative learning where the parents and the child are reading and writing together. Watching educational materials on Television, YouTube, and other modern multimedia platforms is essential in kids' learning process since the lessons are properly demonstrated and explained; however, it is necessary to guide them thoroughly.

Teaching a kindergarten learner is a hard task, but for a parent, it enables them to know both the strength and weaknesses of their child. Even though the parent is working, they ensure that their child is learning how to comprehend and recognize different subjects in whatever learning modality is implemented. It also makes the parents happy because teaching their children enhances their teaching skills and capabilities and refreshes their learning abilities. They also can impart values while teaching their child.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This research investigated the factors that contributed to the coping mechanism of a kindergarten parent in the modular modality during this pandemic. Parents became the facilitators at home with their kindergarten kids. Therefore they are the best recipients in finding out the experiences and learning strategies that can be used in teaching their kids at home during this pandemic. The study is also applicable in understanding what coping mechanism is best used to motivate the children in the challenges of the modular settings. It also sums up the most suitable methodology other kindergarten parents can practice in their educational advancement. Most respondents have a positive outlook and appreciation of the modular learning modality. Their responses to the interviews about the up coping mechanism were positively influenced by the different strategies and by using their parent-children relationship; with the help of the other family members who shared with them the job.

The students place great importance on their learning because of the family bonds that bind them together, considering that the parent is the first teacher, so there is a great attachment due to the motherly/fatherly empathy. Besides, "parents know best," as the saying goes. To be attracted to the modular learning modality, students should be motivated by both parents together with the family members, likewise with the persuasion of the teacher. It is also recommended that during Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC), the school must include in-depth orientation on the proper approach to teaching learners at home using a positive strategy considering the child's moods and attention span to acquire holistic teaching and learning at home. As for the improvement of the teaching strategies, parents should be well oriented on the behavior of the child, what interest the child most should be put into consideration, and not too overwork the child by forcing them to finish their modular assignments; resulting in the child's lack of enthusiasm towards their studies. Remember that kindergarten students are beginners. Hence, encouragement is much more needed than forcing them to excel.

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