



Reflections on Philippine *Araling Panlipunan* (Social Studies) in the Pandemic Era

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Reflections on Philippine Social Studies in the Pandemic Era

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The 6th International Seminar on Social Studies and History Education
Bandung, Indonesia
November 8, 2021



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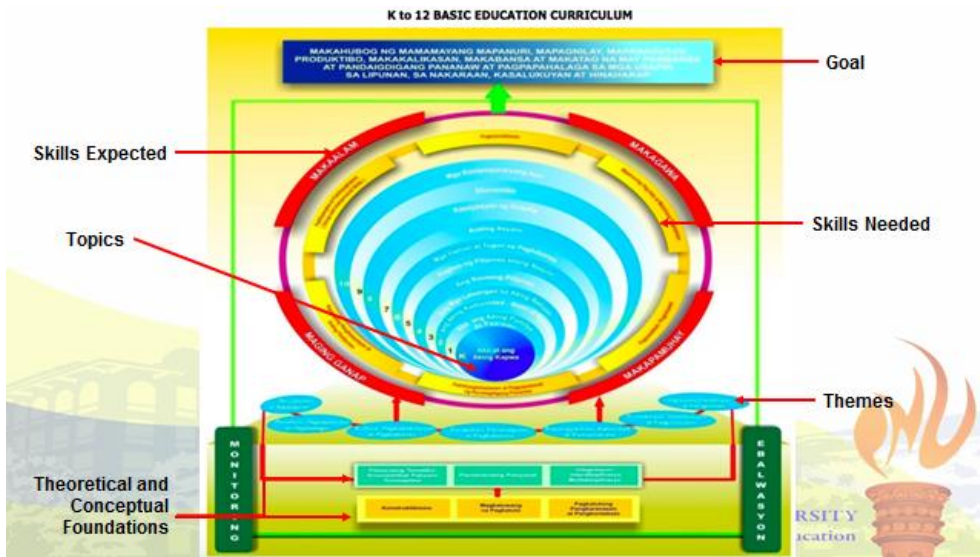


Social Studies in the Philippines

- **Social Studies (Araling Panlipunan)** in the Philippines is a study of how people, communities, and societies live (and have lived) and interact with the environment; a study also of their culture and beliefs (integrated study of social sciences and humanities)
- The objective of this enhanced curriculum of social studies is to **develop students who are aware of their identity and role as Filipinos, engaging in the society, country and the world.** This objective can be actualized through the development of the following skills: critical thinking, logical reasoning, creativity, appreciation of one's culture, research skills, communication skills, responsibility, productivity, environmental consciousness, and having a global vision (SEAMEO Innotech, 2012).

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Philippine Social Studies Themes

- (1) People, Society and Environment (*Tao, Lipunan at Kapaligiran*)
- (2) Time, Continuity and Change (*Panahon, Pagpapatuloy at Pagbabago*)
- (3) Culture, Identity and Nationalism (*Kultura, Pagkakakilanlan, at Pagkabansa*)
- (4) Rights, Accountability, and Citizenship (*Karapatan, Pananagutan, at Pagkakamamayan*)
- (5) Power, Authority, and Governance (*Kapangyarihan, Awtoridad, at Pamamahala*)
- (6) Production, Distribution and Consumption (*Produksyon, Distribusyon, at Pagkonsumo*); and
- (7) Regional and Global Connections (*Ugnayang Panrehiyon at Pangmundo*)

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Philippine Social Studies Topics per Grade Level

| Grade Level | Topic | Themes |
|-------------|--|--------|
| K | Myself and Other (Ako at ang Aking Kapwa) | 1-2 |
| 1 | Self, Family, and School (Ako, and Aking Pamilya at Paaralan) | 1-3 |
| 2 | My Community, Now and Long Ago (Ang Aking Komunidad, Ngayon at Noon) | 1-5 |
| 3 | The Provinces in My Region (Ang mga Lalawigan sa Aking Rehiyon) | 1-6 |
| 4 | The Philippines (Ang Bansang Pilipinas) | 1-6 |
| 5 | The Making of the Filipino Nation (Pagbuo ng Pilipinas bilang Nasyon) | 1-6 |
| 6 | Challenges and Responses in Filipino Nationhood (Mga Hamon at Tugon sa Pagkabansa) | 1-6 |
| 7 | Asian Studies (Araling Asyano) | 1-7 |
| 8 | World History (Kasaysayan ng Daigdig) | 1-7 |
| 9 | Economics (Ekonomiks) | 1-7 |
| 10 | Contemporary Issues (Mga Kontemporaryong Isyu) | 1-7 |

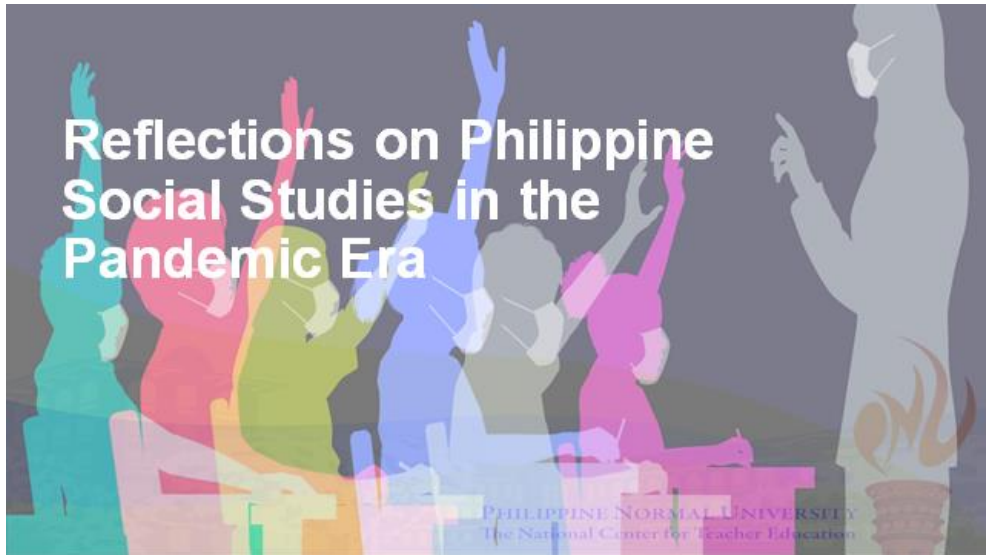


Covid-19 Pandemic and Philippine Schools

- Schools were suddenly closed in March 2020
- The Department of Education reiterated that **”education must continue”** despite the challenges posed by the pandemic
- Basic Education – Learning Continuity Plan
 - Distance Learning (printed modules, television, etc.)
 - Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs)



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image from https://twitter.com/deped_ph/status/1259336012085452464



Reflection #1: On Social Studies Tradition

- The pandemic has challenged, again, the nature of PH Social Studies
- Conflicting priorities on the goal of Social Studies
 - Goal is towards citizenship but the competencies are highly academic (social science)
- Assessment of the attainment of the learning area's goal



Kenneth Carisma and his wife, Ruby Ann Carisma, hold a flag ceremony with their kids at home in General Santos City, as classes resumed nationwide in the 'new normal' on Monday. Photo courtesy of Kenneth Carisma/Facebook

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1200110/kenneth-carisma-001-1200>

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Reflection #2: On Social Studies Curriculum

- The Covid-19 Pandemic forced the PH Department of Education to cover only “the most essential” from the original K to 12 Social Studies Curriculum
- Changes were drastically implemented as a response to the pandemic
 - “top-down approach”
- How do we define “essential” in Social Studies education?

Characteristics of an Essential Learning Competency

Learning competency is ESSENTIAL if ...

1. It is aligned with national and/or local standards/ frameworks (eg: “scientifically literate Filipinos”).
2. It connects the content to higher concepts across content areas.
3. It is applicable to real-life situations.
4. If students leave school, it would still be important for them to have this competency above many others.
5. It would not be expected for most students to learn this in settings other than through formal education.

Source: Republic of the Philippines Department of Education. (2020). Guidelines on the Use of Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs). <https://commons.deped.gov.ph/115/1/15-2-2020.pdf>

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Reflection #3: Teaching and Learning Social Studies during the Pandemic

- Essential Question: How do we teach social studies without actual interaction with society?
- Contextualization of lived experiences in the topics explored and discussed in PH Social Studies in relation with the pandemic
 - Personal experiences (e.g. lockdown, Covid-19 infections) connected to global issues
- Media, Information, and Digital Literacy
- Issue of empowerment



Source: <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/stock-photo/under-ecq-2020-04-15-1200001100001>



Source: <https://www.illustrations.com/stock-photo/fake-news-in-the-philippines-dissecting-the-propaganda-machine>

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What can we learn from these experiences?



Restoring conditions to where they were before the pandemic is not possible.

- Documentation of events as they happen for reference in future planning
 - Social Studies teachers as repository of knowledge and understanding society
 - To build on this experience and continue to develop “resilient” curriculum
- Social Studies education is dynamic; the learning area is an INTEGRAL part of every learner’s education
- Revisit the nature, goal, and philosophy of PH Social Studies taking into consideration the pandemic experience

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What can we learn from these experiences?

Adapted from EDUCAUSE IT Issues 2021

RESTORE



EVOLVE



TRANSFORM



1. **Restore.** We will be focused on figuring out what to do to get back to where we were before the pandemic.
2. **Evolve.** We will be focused on adapting to the new normal.
3. **Transform.** We will be focused on redefining our institution and taking an active role in creating the innovative future of [higher] education.

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Source: <https://er.educause.edu/articles/2020/11/top-10-issues-2021-emerging-from-the-pandemic>



Thank
YOU



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