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MY EXPERIENCE LEARNING OUTSIDE SCHOOL.

Learning outside school has been quite an experience. It was quite a challenge, following that we are used to in-person learning. But with time, things changed. The route of learning suddenly broadened. Never has it been this clear that learning can happen outside a classroom.

It was a bit scary at first. The fact that we had an unseen enemy that devours you without your knowledge was, and still is, quite bone chilling. With time, it was clear that the Corona Virus was not going to leave soon. There arose the need to adapt to what became as famously referred to as 'the new normal'. Since it was not clear when schools would reopen, something needed to be done, and soon.

Television stations began airing lessons, but most importantly, schools began online learning. This kind of learning was quite interesting, and surprisingly easier than I thought. Our school began with simple WhatsApp groups, of which I was a member. The teacher would send a topic earlier for students to prepare themselves on, and we would discuss it broadly the next day. This way even if one was not a part of the discussion, they would catch up later.

With time, there came a need for live teacher-to-student interaction, as teachers were not very sure whether students were understanding content with learning through the WhatsApp groups. My school used various platforms like Zoom, Google Classroom and even Microsoft Teams.

Virtual learning was interesting at first, but it became tiresome. At that time, the Corona Virus was still just growing its roots. Schools did not seem like they would open any time soon. I decided to take a different route. I decided it was better to read on my own, and, after the holiday in August, I did not attend any of the online classes. I had also just gotten a new phone, and the temptation to 'explore' it caught up to me.

I used to watch a lot of YouTube videos on matters content mastering. I got exposed to the internet and actually learnt ~~at~~ a lot. I began focusing on my hobbies and acquiring new skills. I even discovered that I loved dancing, and made sure that I was up to date in terms of dance techniques. I also learnt how to make short promotion videos and posters, something I never knew was quite simple. I made short promotion videos for my church to advertise the various programmes they were putting in place and a logo for my father's company.

I also took initiative to study on my own. It is actually very effective. Once one reads something and understands it on their own, it becomes easier to remember than what one is told.

Learning outside school also proved to be a bit challenging. It was hard to be consistent with the lessons, mostly because I could not afford to buy the bundles needed sometimes. This was not much of a challenge as I could still search for the content on other platforms, something that is not usually very applicable in school. It proved to be quite effective as one works at their own pace, the speed most appropriate for them.

The closure of schools proved to be a learning experience not only to students, but also to parents. It is important to look at the positive, which is the lesson that most people have learnt during this period at home.