



My Experience Learning Outside School

Peter Drucker once said: “We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change. And the most pressing task is to teach people how to learn.” The COVID situation is unquestionably a change that taught me that learning is beyond the scope of the four walls of the classroom and that life must go on even with obstacles and difficulties.

I learnt to embrace technology and to be open minded to other ways of syllabus coverage amid the quarantine period. Zoom classes became popular as a means of students-teacher interaction with notes being given and even videos being played for better understanding of some concepts. I especially liked Physics classes with the teacher screen sharing certain topics and making it available for the rest of us to show our calculation on the screen making it just like the classroom. Tests were being given via google forms whereas notes were being sent via a common class portal.

I learnt to be self-disciplined as I am fully responsible for the large amount of time in my hands. I could decide to wake up at 8 am for my 8 am class or I could decide to wake up at 7 am and do some basic chores like making my bed and preparing breakfast and just being mentally prepared for the day. I had to learn to really self-motivate myself as

there are no teachers or bells or school work that need completion so as to do what am supposed to do.

I learnt about time management in terms of balancing my home chores and school work that needs to be done. Procrastination or *akrasia* as philosophers like Socrates call it is indeed a thief of time. There are many distractions at home causing one to postpone notes for a certain subject for example in my case. It may be scrolling through social media to get the latest tea or even watching a certain movie that apparently everyone is watching. Proper utilization of time and prioritizing my school work helped me to continue revising and focusing on my weak areas in addition to the classes.

Apprenticeship was a system of learning in the past where an apprentice would learn from the master from observing and doing. The apprentice in this case was actually there as the master carried out his practice. I have felt like an apprentice this quarantine period as I learnt how to cook from observing my mother. Some dishes are basically at the tip of my fingers which is a good thing as I take home science as a subject. My father even taught me some basic driving rules which if am being honest would not have been possible during any other school holiday.

During the first 3 months both my parents were at home providing a bonding time learning about my family history which brought up some good laughs and maybe past mistakes that weren't to be repeated were shared. I learnt a bit about our traditional names in relation to the time or period in which my sisters and I were born. I learnt a bit of my mother tongue so I could pick up a few things in case of any sort of family gathering. Their staying at home enabled for guiding and correcting any mistakes that I did.

I really learnt how to be compassionate and to realize what is truly important. It was quite evident how the COVID situation threw people into disarray. We're in a terrifying and confusing pandemic, with new and sometimes conflicting information about COVID-19 emerging all the time. People spread misinformation and amplify conspiracy theories. There are some up to now who don't believe in its existence. The important thing is to assist whenever you can. Stay connected to family and friends as a simple hello really makes a difference especially in light of the mental health issues such as anxiety and depression being brought about by the lockdown.

Leonardo da Vinci said: "learning never exhausts the mind." I have truly learnt a lot during this COVID pandemic and despite this year being called a waste, it is NOT!