

Unstoppable Aeta Dream



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It is the second year of implementing modular distance learning in *Nabuclod Integrated School*. An upland school in Floridablanca, Pampanga and inhabited by Aetas. Despite of the pandemic and no face-to-face classes, the school and community are still striving to achieve their ultimate goal which is the “no Aeta learner should be left behind in education.”

Last school year 2020-2021 is not easy for everyone, especially to the *Indigenous People* who are eager to learn. Nabuclod Integrated School had no choice but to implement the printed modular distance learning since TV-based, Radio-based, and Online learning are not possible. Based on the survey conducted by the school, almost of the families in Nabuclod doesn't have television, radio, as well as gadgets and stable internet connection to be used for blended learning. However, the school continued educating the Aeta learners despite of their issues, problems, and challenges. This school year 2021-2022, through the implementation of *BE-LCOP*, the habit of the whole school and community changed. With the help of the school's programs, projects, and activities, the problems and challenges this new normal education are being addressed.

One of the problems in implementing modular distance learning is the reproduction of self-learning modules. Since the teachers are the one who print the self-learning modules from the Department of Education, they encountered *problems in downloading and printing*. Some subjects do not have modules, and some are not uploaded on time which causes delay in the distribution. Also, the DepEd modules are so lengthy and have so many activities to accomplish which are not applicable to the Aeta learners. Due to its many pages, they also require many resources to reproduce, the school experiencing scarcity since the Elementary and High School share resources. Another problem is that almost all *Aeta parents are illiterate*, that's why they can't guide their children in answering modules. Learning is nothing if no one is teaching and because of these problems, the school made an innovation which is the *Project PAMITUTU* to help the children in answering modules on their own. *Project PAMITUTU (Pinasimpleng Aralin para sa Mag-Indi na TUTUlong sa pag abot ng pangarap)* is an indigenized SLMs from the division focusing on the Most Essential Learning Competencies crafted by the teachers to address the problem of learners in answering modules. The teachers reconstructed and simplified the activities and discussions on the SLMs to suit the learning level of the learners, their situations, the available resources, and the community itself. Also, the instructions were translated to *Ayta Mag-Indi* the mother tongue of IPs in Nabuclod so as to preserve their language and to help the learners easily understand the assessment part.

Nabuclod Integrated School also has the best practices that were very effective and helpful. *Regular and safe home visitations* is one of the best practices conducted by the teachers to monitor and evaluate the learners and also to deliver modules. Another best practice is the *safe and proper implementation of health protocols*. Since the Aeta parents are required to visit the school every Monday or Tuesday for the distribution and retrieval of modules, some of them don't wear face masks which alarmed the whole school. So, the school strictly checks the temperature of Aeta parents, sanitizes their hands and gets their information for contact tracing every time they enter the school. The school guard is also giving facemasks to those who are not wearing them for the safety of everyone. Proper social distancing and plastic barriers on the tables and windows are also observed in the corridors and classrooms. With these best practices of the school, the implementation of modular distance learning is becoming smooth and successful.

The school also celebrated achievements and recognitions during this time of pandemic. During the celebration of Independence Day 2021, the school was recognized for the indigenized Philippine Flag made by two (2) Aeta learners with the help of the school head and teachers. That recognition became an opportunity to tell everyone that Nabuclod Integrated School exists and became a way to those people with helping hands in reaching out the Aeta learners of Nabuclod. Another recognition is awarded to the school for being the 2nd placer in the Floridablanca West District Brigada Eskwela Best Implementing School Evaluation 2021-2022 during the Brigada Eskwela 2021. The school achieved its projects during the Brigada Eskwela which is the sustaining and building good partnership among the stakeholders and community. The Project GUSTA (Gulayan sa Tahanan) was successful wherein many parents in the community participated in creating and improving their gulayan in their own backyards. For the Brigada Pagbasa, the school implemented the Project 5B's (Bawat Batang Bumibili ay Bumabasa at Bumibilang.) It also accomplished its target through the help of Sari-sari store owners and volunteers. Every Sari-sari store in the community was given instructional materials so every child had the opportunity to read and count before or after they bought.

Through the teamwork and partnership of the school, community, and stakeholders, there are no problems and challenges that can stop the Aeta learners in achieving their dreams.

