



The Mic, The Booth and The Voice

• Willy U. Guieb

The Story of JDV Radio

Challenging circumstances entail organizations to design creative strategies to steer and navigate safely and effectively while still managing to hit its targets. In the context of Judge Jose De Venecia Sr Technical Vocational Secondary School (JJDVSTVSS), the COVID 19 pandemic tested its ability to respond quickly and effectively through the implementation of responsive and creative strategies in delivering quality teaching and learning experiences to the learners. It was never easy. But the cooperation and solidarity among all stakeholders made it possible and the results are historical.

The SDO Dagupan City's implementation of modular distance learning as the primary learning modality for this school year, provided the necessary framework in terms of how teaching and learning will be handled by teachers. At the same time, schools were given flexibility in terms of the selection of other learning modalities that could augment the existing modular print materials depending on the context of the school. In the case of JJDVSTVSS, online learning was selected as one of the learning support modality to cater to learners with access to the internet through various online learning platforms. In addition, considering the topography of Dagupan City's eastern barangays where the school is situated, the idea of establishing the school's own radio station was conceptualized. Hence, the birth of JDV Radio 88.3, the 'Home of the Wildcats'.

Through the initiative of the school PTA and in consultation with the entire school community, the establishment of the JDV Radio station was carefully planned and executed by proper pooling of resources and the provision of technical expertise from other stakeholders. Through the PTA fund and donations from generous stakeholders, radio station equipment and other electronic materials were completed. Equally important along with the equipment is the development of instructional materials intended for teaching and learning process on air. Thus, as the radio booth and other instruments were being installed, teaching personnel were oriented and trained along the area of radio broadcast instruction (RBI) in order to develop quality RBI materials. Basically,



JDV Radio technical support team checks the flow of RBI daily broadcasts.

the realization of the JDV Radio was a whole-school approach anchored on the premise that learners must be given all possible opportunities for teaching and learning experiences in the absence of face-to-face learning.

With more than 70% of the school's population have no access to stable internet connection, providing an alternative avenue to deliver instruction is crucial. To date, the usage rate of the station is at 13% of the school population which is equivalent to around 250 learners situated within the 700-m radius and a total of more than 400 RBI materials were developed by teachers from various subject areas. It is still a work in progress and improvements in terms of the coverage area and the preparation of more RBI materials are being considered.

JDV Radio may need more technical upgrades to become an efficient way to reach out to learners but the fact that it was established in record time with the initiative and collaboration among school stakeholders and with the increasing number of learners able to tune in and learning their lessons using this modality, it can be said that it is indeed historical.

In this setting where face-to-face classes are not permitted to deliver instruction, the more creative, practical and needs-based approaches are needed to reach out to our learners to continue their education amidst the pandemic. Each of the learning modalities is equipped with distinct strengths but school leaders must also be cautious as regards their weaknesses. Selecting the best strategies will be crucial. It is therefore imperative that parents, teachers and the entire school community are in unison as regards its implementation of the selected learning modality.

The continued support of the stakeholders to the learning modalities being implemented will surely lead to the sustainability and the eventual success towards the provision of quality teaching and learning experiences to our learners. In the perspective of the JJDVSTVSS community, JDV Radio is a product of collaboration among its stakeholders and most of them considered 'The Home of the Wildcats' as one of the learning opportunities that could bring the school to their homes.

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