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# Digital Literacy and Digital Competence of Selected Filipino Teachers: Basis for a Post-Pandemic Pedagogy

Jhessie L. Abella<sup>1</sup>, Elmer Dela Rosa<sup>2</sup>

1,2 Central Luzon State University, Distance Open and Transnational University, Philippines





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#### ABSTRACT

Objective: The study seeks to provide a thorough description of the teachers' digital literacy (DL) and digital competence (DC) as well as shine light on the variables which influence the development of their digital literacies and competence. Method: Comprehensive data collection and analysis from 274 participants were completed. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were conducted to accomplish the objectives of this study. Results: It came to light that teachers with less than ten years of experience have higher levels of digital literacy. Pre-service education, having access to ICT resources, and a favorable attitude about using ICT were all strongly associated with DL and DC. The research's essential contribution is its findings affirming the value of DL and DC, which can be utilized to approach new technologies from a critical pedagogical standpoint and use them as a part of digital pedagogy. Novelity: The critical contribution of the research is the result claiming the positive status of DL and DC, can be used to approach new tools from a critical pedagogical perspective and apply them as part of digital pedagogy.

### INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the Coronavirus pandemic, has dramatically changed the world. The world has been surprised by this unseen enemy who has taken millions of lives and infected millions more by this deadly disease caused by SARS-CoV-2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic citing the degree of its spread, the number of infected people, deaths, and the number of countries with the disease. This virus's effect is unimaginable, takes a heavy toll across countries' economies, and leaves healthcare near collapsing. Unfortunately, the education sector has not been spared by its ferocity as most countries worldwide impose lockdowns to curve its spread. According to UNICEF (2020), as of June 7, 2020, due to school closures in response to the pandemic, approximately 1.725 billion students are currently impacted, as most governments worldwide have temporarily closed educational institutions. The closure of the schools has been thought to contribute to minimizing the transmission rate of this disease. This action has been proven effective among closed-contact infections such as influenza and tuberculosis.

In response to the pandemic, the Philippine government has issued Executive Order No. 112, which imposed an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in high-risk geographic areas of the Philippines and a general community quarantine (GCQ) in the rest of the country from 01 to May 15, 2020. It has dramatically affected the conduct of classes in areas placed under ECQ and GCQ. In response to the government's mandate, the Department of Education issued DepEd Memorandum 42, s. 2020 which ordered that the 4th quarter examination will no longer be administered. The health crisis has also forced the country to delay the start of the school year to October 5, 2020, and shift

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