

# Parents Perspective on The Face-To-Face Schooling of Elementary Learners in Wesleyan University-Philippines

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**Abstract:** - The study aims to determine the safety of the learners of elementary department at Wesleyan University – Philippines against the SARS-CoV-2, also phenomenally known as Covid-19 virus. The researchers used a frequency distribution method which is a tabular representation of survey data based on the IATF, WHO and DOH guidelines on the health and safety protocol guidelines for conducting face-to-face schooling. Respondents of the study were all parents and guardians of learners who are studying at Wesleyan University located at Mabini Street Extension, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. The results show that majority of the respondents have agreed and/or strongly agreed that the school premises and administration are following prescribed Covid-19 protocols. The results also show that some of the parents (relatively a small portion of the population) are expecting for a more enhanced protocols to be used by the school. Conclusively, the survey shows that the school has been following the guidelines and protocol leading to the safety of learners, and the perception of safety of the parents.

**Key Words:** — *Safety Protocol, Safety Protocol and guidelines of Covid-19, Face-to-face safety, Wesleyan University – Philippines.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic literally stopped the world momentarily with its emergence. Lockdowns and other preventive measures were put into place in March 2020. Undeniably, it took a toll in all of us --- in all aspects of life. People all over the world were in havoc on what the virus was, and what it could do to humankind. Unknown to doctors, medical practitioners, chemists, up to biological experts at that time, they had initially recommended the use of PPEs as first line of defense for safety.

These PPEs include face masks, disposable poly coverall plastic suits, and face shields; with emphasis on wearing of face mask (up to the extent of double masking), as our safety net against the virus. This resulted to insufficiency and skyrocket pricing of face masks as people all over the world were in the state of panic buying.

Related to the Wuhan-originated virus also known as the CoVid-19, the DepEd was also one with the world in the state of chaos. During the onset of the virus which remained to be unknown and fatal, with no available vaccines and medicines for use, they cancelled the accustomed teaching of face-to-face setup, petrified that teachers and students might acquire the unknown virus which was spreading exponentially.

Fast-forward today in 2022, the DepEd has issued a DO (DepEd Order) Number 44, series of 2022: signed by Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte, giving the green light for private schools to continue five days face-to-face classes and blended learning. In accordance with the DO 44, every school

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premise should follow the DepEd memorandum No. 30, series of 2022: the Dissemination of the School Safety Assessment tool for the progressive expansion of the face-to-face classes.

According to mayoclinic.org [3], outbreak happens in school with face-to-face setting, but multiple prevention strategies such as [4] classroom capacity, physical distance [2] always wearing masks, checking temperature of every learner, checking the oxygen level of every learner, access to disinfectant alcohol, washing of hand, etc. can mitigate the spread. With these guidelines, the spread of COVID-19 virus in school maybe lowered compared to community spread, hence, the objective of this study.

Specifically, the study sought to answer the following questions:

- What are the profiles of the respondents?
- What is the readiness and safety of elementary department in Wesleyan University for the face-to-face method of instruction?
- What is the safeness of learners in the face-to-face method of learning at Wesleyan University – Philippines?

## II. METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researchers aim to determine if the Elementary Department of Wesleyan University – Philippines has complied to [1] DepEd memorandum for the face-to-face classes which is due to be implemented by November 2, 2022, and if the department has lowered the spread of Covid-19 virus.

The researchers used the researcher-made questionnaire based on the released memoranda from Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to solicit data from the respondents. The data collected utilized purposive sampling technique to pick samples from various population strata. These were statistically treated with the use of descriptive like:

### 2.1 Research Design

This study used descriptive research design in which facts are described by establishing relationship between variables. [4]. In this study, the respondents are the parents and guardians of learners who are currently enrolled at Elementary Department of Wesleyan University – Philippines for the school year 2022-2023. The parents and guardians evaluated if the guidelines are being followed at the school premises. In addition, the parents and guardians must also declare if they suspect that their

child/children had acquired Covid-19 virus while attending in school.

#### 2.1.1 Subjects of the Study

This study was conducted by the researchers for the parents and guardians of the whole population of children enrolled at Elementary Department of Wesleyan University–Philippines.

#### 2.1.2 Instrument

To evaluate the safety of the students enrolled at Elementary Department of Wesleyan University – Philippines against Covid-19, a survey (four-point Likert scale) obtained from DepEd, CHED, IATF, and WHO safety guidelines against the spread of Covid-19 was used.

Meanwhile, to evaluate the safety of the learners, the sample was gathered from 171 out of 278 respondents. A 14-item question was given to each of the parent and guardian of every learner based on the safety guidelines from DepEd [2], CHED [4], IATF, and WHO. From this survey, the researcher aims to evaluate the safety of learners of Elementary department at Wesleyan University – Philippines against Covid-19. Each question was found to have a majority answer of “strongly agree”, indicating that the school is following the guidelines in administering face-to-face classes.

### 2.2 Data Analysis

To identify the safety of the learners, the gathered data is illustrated using a pie chart, and is interpreted as follows:

- Determine the result from four-point Likert scale; Strongly Disagree (SD), Disagree (D), Agree (A), and Strongly Agree (SA).
- Distinguish from these actual data the highest answer from the survey.
- From this data, establish a conclusion regarding the safety of learners in the face-to-face schooling.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The school premises should have a wash facility in accordance with IATF guidelines, enabling every person within the school premises may wash their hand. Figure 1 shows that 50% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there is a wash facility, 39% out of 168 have agreed, 2% out of 168 have disagreed, and 9% out of 168 have strongly disagreed. This survey has shown a positive output, manifesting 89% that the premises indeed have a wash area.

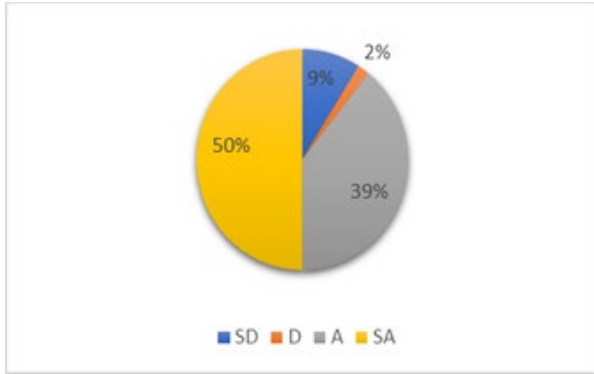


Fig.1. The school premises have wash facilities (168)

The school premises should have a visible floor marking both in pathways and in the classrooms. Markings shows the proper 1 meter apart. Figure 2 shows that 44.64% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there is indeed a visible floor marking both in the pathways and in the classrooms, 42.86% out of 168 have agreed, 5.36% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 7.14% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, possessing 87.5% that the premises indeed have visible markings.

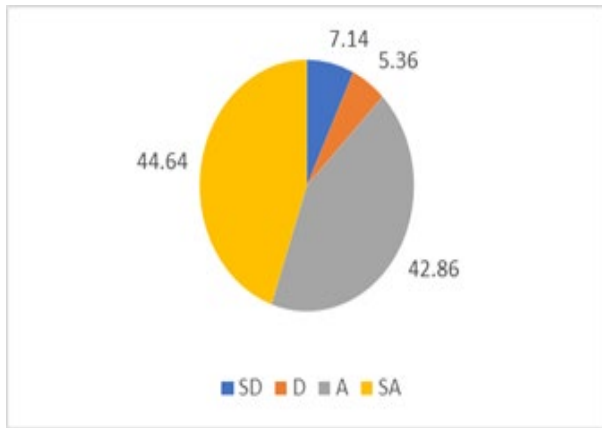


Fig.2. The school premises have visible floor markings (pathways and classrooms) (168)

Seating arrangement of each student in every classroom should be based on 1 meter apart as prescribed. Figure 3 shows that 52.63% out of 171 respondents have strongly agreed that the seating arrangement of students are indeed 1-meter apart, 35.09% out of 171 have agreed, 3.51% out of 171 have dis-agreed, and 8.77% out of 171 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, possessing 87.72% that the seating arrangement is 1-meter apart.

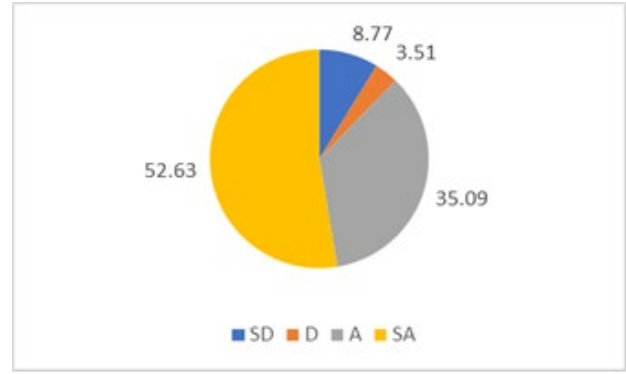


Fig.3. Arranged seating of students based on the prescribed layout (1 meter apart per learner) (171)

It is important to have an isolation room or area for those learners who are not feeling well, feverish, or perhaps infected with the covid-19. Figure 4 shows that 36.36% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there is an isolation room near the entrance of the school, 45.45% out of 168 have agreed, 9.09% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 9.09% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, acquiring 81.81% saw the isolation area near the entrance of the school.

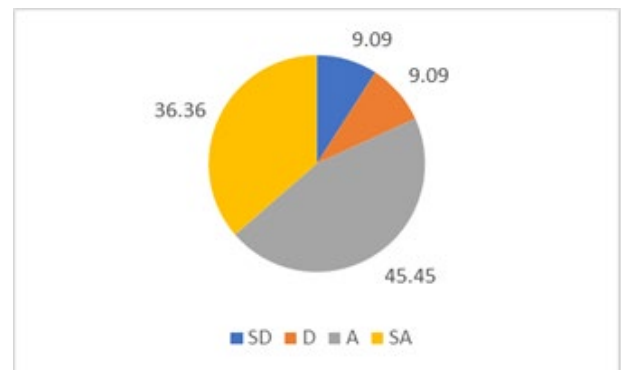


Fig.4. There is an isolation room near the entrance of the school

Exit and Entrance signage in school premises are important

to prevent confusion to people visiting any premises. More importantly at school in the time of the pandemic, knowing the exit route may provide a safe way to evacuate whenever a crisis or emergency may occur. Figure 5 shows that 44.64% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there is an exit and entrance signage at school, 44.64% out of 168 have agreed, 3.57% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 7.14% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output,

possessing 89.28% stated that there is an entrance and exit in the school premises.

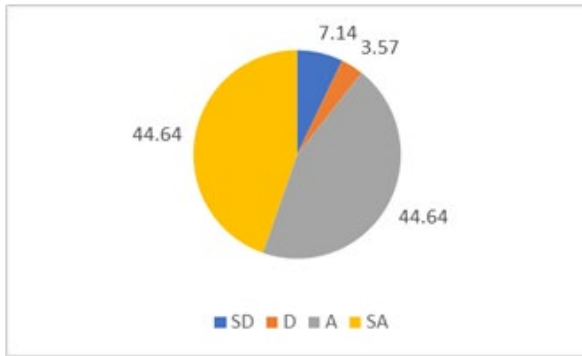


Fig.5. There is an exit entrance signages in the school premises (168)

Health advocacy signages helps us remember the importance of health, making us aware of safety guidelines in order not to have contact with the virus in times of the pandemic. Figure 6 shows that 45.61% out of 171 respondents have strongly agreed that there is health advocacy signages around the campus, 42.1% out of 171 have agreed, 3.51% out of 171 have dis-agreed, and 8.77% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, possessing 87.71% stated that there is health advocacy signages.

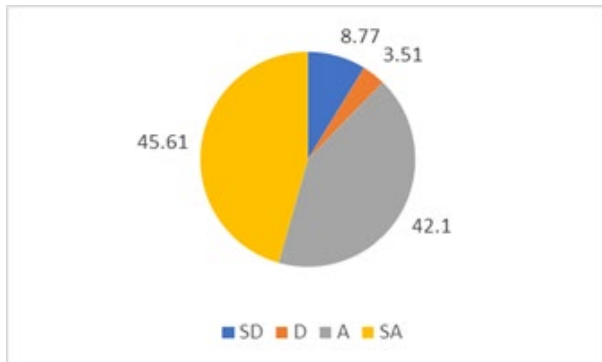


Fig.6. There is health advocacy signages (171)

Most of the time parents and guardians spend time in school and wait for their child until they finish the school for the whole day. In case they don't wait for children, there are also times that they come early when fetching the children. Having an area for parents and guardian prevents disruption of classes. Figure 7 shows that 44.64% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there is an appropriate area for parents/guardians/fetchers, 42.86% out of 168 have agreed, 1.82% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 10.71% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output,

possessing 87.5% stated that there is an appropriate area for guardians and parents.

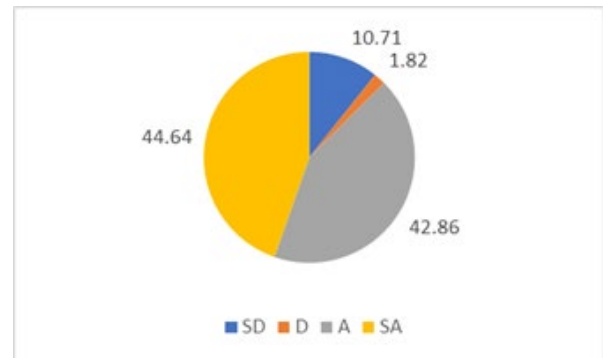


Fig.7. There is an appropriate area for parents/guardians/fetchers (168)

Thermal scanning and alcohol dispenser are regular health procedure seen here at the Philippines, whenever we enter any premises, especially when in public. According to health guidelines, this helps to monitor each every one of us if it is possible that we are infected by the virus. Figure 8 shows that 50.89% out of 171 respondents have strongly agreed that there is a thermal scanner and alcohol dispenser when entering the school premises, 38.59% out of 171 have agreed, 1.75% out of 171 have dis-agreed, and 8.77% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed This survey has shown a positive output, possessing 89.48% assured that there is thermal scanner and alcohol dispenser when entering the school premises.

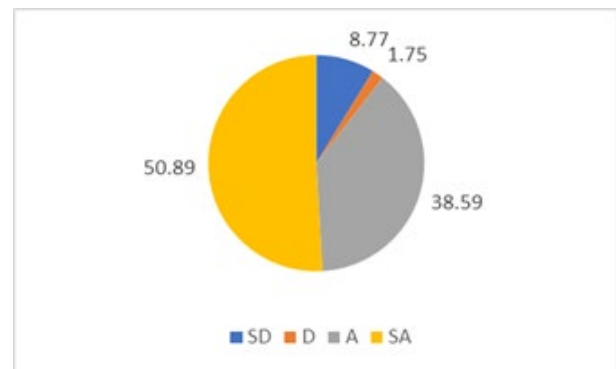


Fig.8. There is thermal scanner with alcohol dispenser at the entrance gate (171)

According to study, Covid-19 strike the lungs of its victim, making one to have difficulty in breathing. The guidelines also suggest the use Oxygen meter to evaluate if a person have a difficulty breathing, in which case, may have contacted the

virus. Figure 9 shows that 33.96% out of 159 respondents have strongly agreed that teacher of their child is using oximeter, in this case it is more possible that the adviser is the one executing the testing in every room. 45.28% out of 159 have agreed, 16.98% out of 159 have dis-agreed, and 3.77% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, possessing 79.24% stated that teachers are using oximeter to test oxygen level of their students.

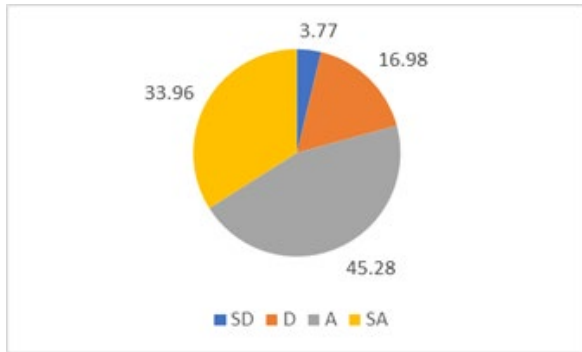


Fig.9. Teachers are using carbon monoxide meter (159)

[5] Proper ventilation is important (electric fan) to reduce the spread of the virus. [5] This decreases the concentration of airborne contaminants, including covid-19 virus. Figure 10 shows that 46.43% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there are working electric fans in every classroom, 42.86% out of 168 have agreed, 1.78% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 8.93% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, possessing 87.5% identified that there is electric fan in every classroom.

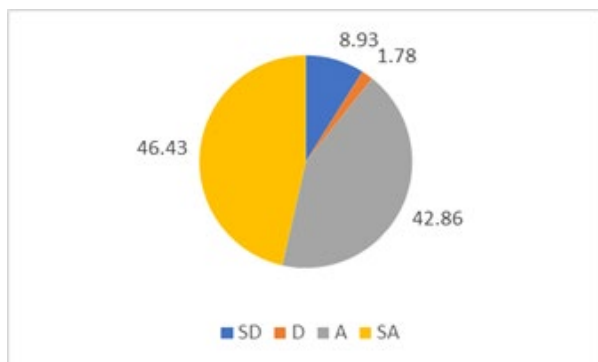


Fig.10. There are working electric fan in every classroom (168)

[6] Study shows that the use of UV light is effective on the killing bacteria and viruses on every surface. Using of UV light in every classroom before and after the school may greatly help in preventing the spread of Covid-19. Figure 11 shows that 35.85% out of 159 respondents have strongly agreed that

teacher uses UV light in disinfecting classrooms. 39.62% out of 159 have agreed, 15.09% out of 159 have dis-agreed, and 9.43% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, exhibiting 75.47%, stated that teachers are using oximeter to test oxygen level of their students.

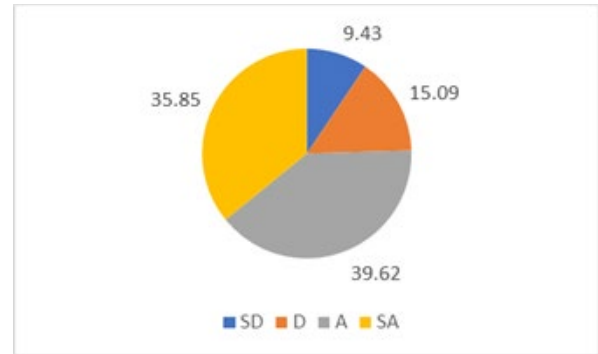


Fig.11. There is sterilization area with UV light (159)

[7] The use of alcohol with at least 60% alcohol content is advisable if washing of hands with soap and water seems impossible. It is important to have access on the use of alcohol in every classroom. Figure 12 shows that 50.88% out of 168 respondents have strongly agreed that there is alcohol dispenser in every classroom, 36.84% out of 168 have agreed, 1.75% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 10.53% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, having 87.72% said that there is alcohol dispenser on their child classroom.

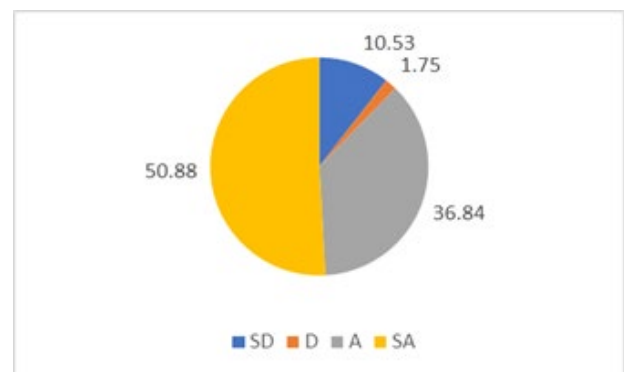


Fig.12. Alcohol dispenser in every classroom

Data bases of every student is of course a procedure in every school and university. This time the data base of student contacting the covid-19 is important so to know if there is an outbreak or a threat of having an outbreak in the premises. Figure 13 shows that 98% out of 168 respondents have strongly

agreed that there is indeed a data base in the school, 2% out of 168 have agreed, 0.0% out of 168 have dis-agreed, and 0.0% out of 168 have strongly dis-agreed. This survey has shown a positive output, having 100% said that there is a data base of every student in office of the principal.

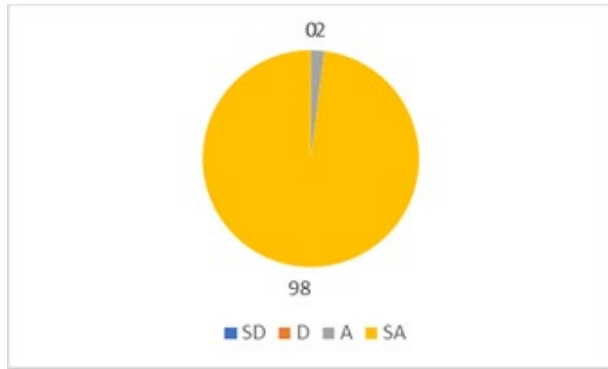


Fig.13. Data base of learners

The researcher ought to know if a student had the virus since the start of the face-to-face mode. The researchers are delighted to have 100% positive feedback that none of them have contracted the virus since the start of the face-to-face modality.



Fig.14. Have your child/children have contacted CoVid-19 since the start of face-to-face?

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This study revealed that the Elementary Department of Wesleyan University – Philippines is following the safety guidelines against the Covid-19 set by the IATF, WHO and DOH and mandated by DepEd and CHED memorandum. The use of thermal scanner, oximeter, provision of alcohol dispensers, health advocacy signage, such as wash hands, proper wearing of mask, etc., among others are being complied by the school.

Moreover, the respondents have declared that none of the students contacted Covid-19 since the start of the face-to-face schooling, inferring a more positive output in the safety of every learner of Elementary Department of Wesleyan University - Philippines

With all the data gathered and analysed, the researchers conclude that the Elementary Department of Wesleyan University – Philippines has followed and implemented the guidelines for safety against Covid-19, thus, without a doubt making the premises safety for the learners and teachers to conduct face-to-face schooling.

#### Acknowledgment:

We thank God for His endless blessing through the development of the study. We are grateful to all the parents and guardians of every learner who participated on this study, this study will never be possible if not for all of you. We would also like to acknowledge our professors and advisers, Dr. Joefil Jocson and Dr. Salvador Loria Jr., for his guidance and wisdom in executing this case study.

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