**CHANGE AND ADAPT: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATION OF GRADE 11 TRANSFER STUDENTS**

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**Abstract**

Transferring to a different institution entails embracing an entirely fresh educational setting. For Grade 11 transfer students, the transition to a new institution can be particularly heavier as they experience the rapid change of a new academic curriculum along with the change of their institution which may lead to them feeling a sense of unfamiliarity. This study aimed to determine the challenges that Grade 11 transfer students from public schools in Lorma Colleges - Basic Education Schools face, utilizing a descriptive research design. Purposive sampling was utilized to select the ten (10) participants in the study. The participants' responses were gathered through semi-structured face-to-face interviews. The acquired data was thoroughly analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings indicated that Grade 11 transfer students encountered challenges in unfamiliarity, engaging in social groups, and academic integration. Their coping mechanisms involved joining extracurricular activities, socializing, and reaching out to faculty members. Overall, the challenges that Grade 11 transfer students face are truly lost when they push themselves out of their comfort zone. The study underscored the significance of supporting transfer students through orientations that welcome them into the institution and the built environment and culture that the institution has. Recommendations include encouraging students and all members of the institution to welcome the transfer students and for transfer students to engage with them.

Keywords: *institution; unfamiliarity; orientations; purposive; socializing*