**Digital Inequality: The Learning Challenges of Senior High School Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Chrysta Joy Ganal¹, Jhazmyne Zdaynne Delmendo¹, Lee RV Flores¹, Zeth Esra Nuesca¹, Robert Leo Ballasiw¹

LORMA Colleges Basic Education Schools

**ABSTRACT:** The spread of the COVID-19 virus has made the demand for technological devices to go higher as it became more prominent in our lives especially to students who are taking up online classes. Not every student is privileged enough to afford these devices and with that, digital inequality happens in the educational environment. This study aims to determine and answer the impacts of digital inequality to senior high school students, the student’s perceived challenges during online classes, relative to digital inequality and the coping mechanisms of senior high school students regarding the challenges presented by digital inequality. Furthermore, considering the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the researchers utilized a descriptive qualitative type of research wherein they opted to gather data from different online resources such as surveys, interviews, news, and articles regarding the impacts of digital inequality in the learning environment.  After gathering the data, the researchers used thematization to analyze the data where it revealed that students are not academically prepared physically, mentally, and emotionally in this school year due to the lack of resources and proper comprehension. However, students also showed character development with the different learning strategies that they have started doing to cope up with the lack of device and internet connection. Lastly, one of the researchers’ recommendations for the school is to ensure easy access to the applications needed for school activities so that most of the students can comply.

**Keywords**: digital inequality, digital divide, technology, internet connection, student struggles