

A Narrative Inquiry on Persistence of a College Student amidst Catastrophe and the Pandemic

Teofilo Esguerra Jr., PhD

tcesguerra@aup.edu.ph

Michelle Collado, PhD

mtcollado@aup.edu.ph

Adventist University of the Philippines

Putting Kahoy, Silang, Cavite, Philippines

ABSTRACT

The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has not only brought higher educational institutions to navigate through uncharted learning experiences, but also affected the perspectives and priorities of students. In the Philippine setting, it has affected the college students' learning environment in terms of family and personal health, economics, career directions, and persistence to graduate. This study aims to narrate the experience of a college student who, during the course of his/her study, has been affected by family trials and uncertainty. Despite such challenges, the student chose to persist to finish a college degree. The story of the student brings forward the role of the Adventist higher educational institutions in providing personal and spiritual support during times such as the pandemic.