

## **Students' Perceptions of Teachers' Methodology in Providing Safe Space Hybrid Classrooms in Select Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Calamba, Laguna**

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### **Abstract**

The implementation of the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313) was the catalyst for various institutions, including educational institutions, to promote a space that is inclusive and open to all. However, "safe space" is an elusive term since there remains little research locally surrounding it, especially for hybrid classrooms. Moreover, it is important to underscore the teachers' role in fostering said safe spaces, particularly in their manner of teaching. Given the pressing need to understand the students' perception of safe space hybrid classrooms when it comes to the teachers' methodology, the following objectives were set: (1) gauge the students' perception of safe space hybrid classrooms; (2) identify practices employed under the teachers' methodology that ensures a safe space hybrid classroom, and (3) provide recommendations based on the result of the study. A quantitative approach was taken by administering an online Likert scale questionnaire that consisted of 20 statements. This questionnaire was provided to students from select Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Calamba, Laguna who experienced the hybrid classroom. With a total of 383 college students responding to the survey, the findings were that the teacher's classroom practices such as promoting open participation, discussion, and sharing of ideas as well as encouraging positive collaboration among students ensure a safe space hybrid classroom with these receiving the highest means. However, it is necessary to make progress in giving directions that are sensitive to gender and demonstrating sensitivity to one's gender preference as these received the lowest means. To get additional comprehensive findings about safe spaces in hybrid classrooms, subsequent research should be conducted. After all, with the hybrid setup's popularity, the implementation of safe spaces in educational institutions must be deeply explored.

*Keywords: education, safe space, hybrid classroom, higher education institutions, students, teachers, quantitative research, Philippines*