

Impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Education Industry

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Corona Virus (COVID 19) is a novel virus arising from the family of Sars Cov-2. It is the current pandemic affecting the world, recording over 7 million cases and more than 400,000 deaths. As we write, the United States is the epicenter of the virus, immediately followed by Brazil and in the third-place lies Russia). In light of increasing concern about the present COVID-19 pandemic, a growing number of universities across the globe have either postponed or cancelled all campus activities such as conferences, workshops, sports, and other activities. Universities are taking intensive precautions to prevent and protect all students and staff members from the highly infectious disease. Schools are in the process of transitioning to online teaching platforms already. In response to COVID-19, many countries introduced travel restriction (both in and out of the country) with intentions to prevent the spread of the epidemic.

Government Officials and public health experts are taking several measures, including self-isolation, or quarantine, strengthening health facilities to control the disease, asking people to work from home and social distancing. Several countries announced the closure of museums, gyms, swimming pools, movie theatres, educational institutions, and places with social gatherings to fight the disease Africa as a continent is not spared as they have had their own share of the virus hitting and bringing to a halt all major sectors of the economy, such as tourism, entertainment, foreign exchange, importations, and exportations, etc. This halt has brought to Africa both positive and negative transformations. Africa and other continents have been forced to move and adapt to the changing patterns of the world thereby abandoning their long-standing tradition of doing things; a prime example is an educational system, where most Africa countries especially in west Africa consider online learning as no learning at all but holds contact-learning in high esteem.

With the advent of the current pandemic rocking the world today educational institutions have found adaptive ways to keep up with the global trends of education rather than to be left behind and play the catch-up game all the time with the rest of the world. Students especially at the university level, have found various ways to keep themselves engaged by up taking various online courses to improve and enhance their skills in their various professions. Notwithstanding, COVID-19 has brought a lot of people to their knees, including health workers (our heroes in this pandemic), security agencies, families and loved ones, immigrants, and the vulnerable(s), among others.

Worldwide, a lot of students and teachers are excited by the move of the online teaching delivery mode. Most faculty have begun to prepare lesson plans to deliver to their students through online teaching. Online teaching has always been a mode of delivery for universities. Training is done using online platforms either as a mode of delivery or as an add-on-to-face-face-teaching to faculty members. However, there is by chance some faculty who are bot techno-savvy won't be able to cope with this mode. Questions have been raised about the capability of the faculty to deal with the existing technology due to the transition to online mode. Computers and IT equipment at home are now in high demand by from children, parents and other relatives who need to work from home. Thus, it will

be a difficult task working from home. Also, a lot of universities do not have enough resources to facilitate online teaching immediately. What of students who do not have access to laptops and internet facilities at home. What happens to students whose course cannot be taught online? How possible is it to teach practical and labs, art and music course online? Quality of online education is an issue that needs proper attention.

End of semester examinations has been suspended by several universities, whereas continuous assessment goes along with the online classes. There has been a serious impact on the assessment and evaluation of online delivery from face-to-face teaching. The assessment aspect is often under-developed although technology has been used earlier to support teaching and learning. Applying online assessments on courses designed for face-to-face learning is a challenging task. Students, as well as faculty, are uncertain about the procedure for administrating outstanding assignments, projects, and other continuous assessments.

The faculty members have to change the type of assessment to fit into online mode. It is quite difficult to monitor how the students are taking the assessment online and to ensure that they are not cheating during online tests. Also, lab practical's, tests, and performance tests will not be possible to conduct online. Also, students without internet activity will suffer a disadvantage when participating in the evaluation process, which would adversely affect their grade point average (GPAs). Symptoms of coronavirus can be treated but there is no specific treatment for coronavirus yet. Antibiotics do not work against coronavirus. The virus can affect any age group.

Older people and those with preexisting conditions are more vulnerable to contract the virus. There is no evidence that pets such as cats and dogs can be infected with the virus. However, it is advisable to wash your hands with soap and clean water after touching pets. While the higher education system in Benin is getting back to work, after the government said the ban on classes to fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic would end on 11 May, the ongoing closure of the border with Nigeria is creating problems for private institutions and their students (Samuel Okocha 2020). An employment court in Nairobi, Kenya, has barred two public universities from cutting workers' salaries pending the hearing and determination of a case filed by the Universities Academic Staff Union (Wachira Kigotho).

Steps aimed at reopening higher education institutions closed because of the coronavirus pandemic have been announced by the Ministers in both the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with proposals to introduce distance courses at the Republic of the Congo's only public university, Marien Ngouabi University in Brazzaville, and instructions to university heads in the DRC to start measures first in areas free of the infection. To combat this trending and alarming pandemic, there is a need to be adequately informed about the public health perspective of behavioral and adaptive change as we have learned to do with some other infectious diseases such as malaria. HIV/AIDS etc.

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