

Education in times of pandemia

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Disruptive change for education

Current situation poses the most important challenge for education in the XXI century. We are facing the consequences of long term digital divide previously addressed by Internet Society and others.

- What is the effect of COVID19 on education system ?
- How disruption is being managed ?
- Which scenarios exist for educational activities in the near / mid-term future ?

Current status

On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a pandemic due to increased propagation of SARS COV2 and incidence of COVID 19.

Most of countries closed schools and institutions and started implementing distance learning at every educational level.

Digital divide has resulted in a significant number of students unable to continue studying.

Educational institutions were not prepared to face a full closure of face-to-face activities

Online pedagogical models are not fully understood by teachers, students and educational leadership

Distance learning can not be fully implemented due to access limitations, lack of digitalization of contents, deficient synchronous and asynchronous practice, lack of parent resources

Mitigation

Observed actions show diverse levels of intervention and support, with only a common factor: social distancing to reduce uncontrolled propagation.

The lowest level is closure and standby instructions for students and teachers

The highest level is migration to LMS with synchronous education and proper online pedagogy in practice

Innovation and creativity emerges to palliate the lack of access to physical infrastructure at schools and universities, including sports, laboratories and arts.

Novel communication paradigms are being actively developed by teachers and students

Economic effect on education is being avoided, however it is foreseeable a negative effect on institutions, teachers and students.

Prospective

Currently, we lack of enough information how relaxation of social distancing at schools is contributing to propagation of SARS COV 2

Most of educational institutions implemented short term plans (about a month) of distance learning (or not). However, it seems that it will be long term situation.

It is likely that a progressive and careful return to schools would be implemented however hybrid education is a feasible alternative

Urgent Internet access is required to mitigate current situation and reduce potential effects in a second (or third) contagious outbreak. Some actions that may contribute include:

- Community level infrastructure sharing
- Implementation of local caches
- Increased cybersecurity measures
- Development of offline strategies

Thanks !

“People learn more on their own rather than being force fed.”

- Socrates

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