

EDUCATION MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO THE „NEW RULES”

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Abstract: *The pandemic coronavirus brought major disruptions to education between 2020 and 2022, giving an important role to online education/ learning. Attendance at online courses has largely depended on the existence of computer/laptop and internet connections. Family involvement in children's education was crucial, sometimes being forced to assume the role of teachers. It is sad but thru that, the success of the children during this period largely depended on the financial situation of the parents. The unpreparedness of students in the online teaching and learning process from the beginning over time was replaced with quality and competency in the use of communication and technology. The need for teachers was underlined by the crisis. Virtual learning versus traditional in-person learning has been the favourite topic of debate for scientists in 2021. The detailed analysis of the weaknesses and strengths fills whole volumes, but most of them agree with one thing a strong education means combining them. Knowledge management in a virtual environment is difficult and requires a lot of attention and skills. The composition of the virtual pedagogical portfolio must be done in the interest of the students. Adapting the curriculum to local needs is a demand for a successful education, satisfied students who will be capable to assume a role in economic development. We must not lose sight of the fact that by 2022 over 50 million students are enrolled on the most popular online platforms. The development of a new educational system that is sustainable and equipped for all kinds of unexpected scenarios is a global necessity.*

Keywords: *virtual learning; adaptation; pandemic; sustainability; online platforms*

JEL Classification: I21; I24

1. Introduction

Before the outbreak of covid-19, education already faced problems like lack of teachers, topography issues, and families' poor economic conditions. The experience of transferring knowledge through online learning for many represents a "new industrial revolution" in which science is inseparable from technology. For example, in Indonesia at the national level was implemented the Open and Integrated Indonesian Online Lecture Program (KDITT), which ensures quality for the entire academic community (Batubara, 2021). Among the benefits of online learning are the increased level of interaction between students and teachers, time and place flexibility, the potential to reach a global audience, and easy updating of content. During this hard time was created global study groups shared knowledge, methods,

and solutions for the advancement of science and society. Google Meet, Smart Class, Zenius, Quipper, Zoom, Facetime, Slack, Skype, Join.me, Highfive, GoTo Meeting, and Intrado are some of the platforms that have been suitable solutions for online meetings in a time of great restrictions. Benefits provided: simple scheduling, screen sharing, instant messaging, record meetings, webinar functionalities, meeting waiting room, and cloud storage for recordings.

2. Literature review

Dubey and Pandey present challenges and opportunities in education during the pandemic in India (Dubey, Pandey, 2020). In Pravat opinion, COVID-19 has impacted immensely the education sector of India, created many challenges, and various opportunities among which the Indian Govt. and different stakeholders of education explored Open and Distance learning (ODL) by adopting different digital technologies (Pravat, 2020). Onyema's study concluded that unequal access to technology and prolonged school closures deprived millions of students of access to education, particularly those in third world countries, rural areas, and people with special needs whose consequences will be seen shortly (Onyema at al 2020). Kalimullina shows that the figure of the teacher, even in connection with the use of digital instruments, is so far unchanged in the learning process (Kalimullina at al 2021). In Careaga's vision, online education is justified under three sets of conditions: territorial dispersion, the need to educate very large groups of students, and a way to meet educational needs in exceptional situations (Careaga at al 2020). Sahlberg says that the pandemic may help make education more equitable (Sahlberg, 2021). In Şeren opinion, education can become a business of machines, not humanity (Şeren, Özcan, 2021). Hill is of the opinion that in British Columbia the pandemic has highlighted the need to re-envision teachers' role and education in multiple ways (Hill at al, 2020).

3. Methodology

The research in this article involves the study of national and international specialized literature, statistical data, as well as an analysis conducted by international organizations about education. Determine the advantages and drawbacks of virtual learning, and face to face learning, to present a clearer picture. Because we cannot appreciate the possible changes that will take place without being aware of the reality: education will never disappear from human society, but it will be very changed from now on. So, the digital environment creates fundamentally new conditions for education and self-expression, and if young people are adaptable to changes, they will benefit in the medium and long term.

4. Virtual learning versus traditional in-person learning

Advantages of virtual learning, webcasting, virtual group discussions, and video conferencing include dynamics interaction, a safe and comfortable environment, time flexibility, enhanced students' independents, and self-learning capacity. Through drawbacks, can be listed as isolation, the dependence on good internet, lack of hands-on exposure. The benefits of traditional learning are well known as direct interaction, hands-on exposure, direct student assessment, setting boundaries between home and school, provide training for procedural skills. But like anything in this world, traditional education has its disadvantages like lack of innovation, reliance on the presence of lecturers all the time of education, wasting a lot of time commuting and moving between different classes. In this situation examinations have been delayed and postponed, which affected the motivation of the students, and caused massive distress. Many students believe that face to face education is boring and monotonous but online elements could help them get motivated to learn more effectively. The role of the teacher was in the middle of the attention and discussions for a long time, and the pandemical situation accentuated their need and high-performance training. The rapid development of very advanced technologies leads to massive information processing capabilities. If we look at Kuwait, we will see that even though the combination of online and traditional education has been on the agenda of several Ministries of Education, none of them has managed to implement it before the pandemic. An existing digital infrastructure that only needed to be activated for young people to benefit from their share of education was the perfect solution (Alhouti, 2020). At least 3 million Italian students may not have been reached by remote learning due to a lack of internet connectivity or devices at home (Mascheroni at al, 2021). To see the importance of learning tools, figure number 1 shows their use in percentage.

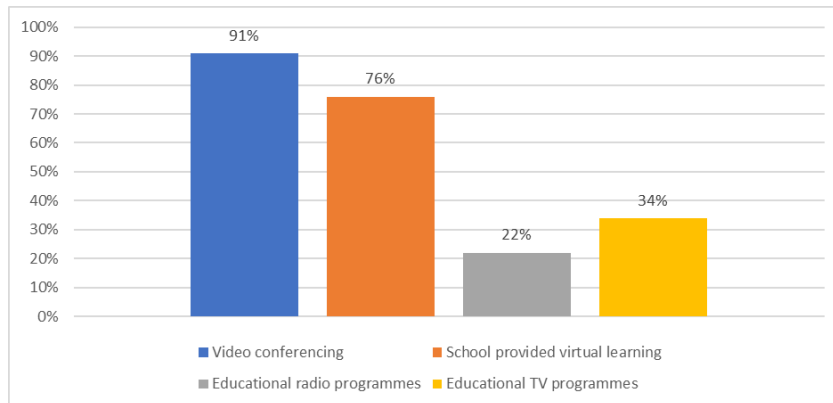


Figure 1: The average use of digital learning tools in 2021

Source: created by the author, based on information collected from UNESCO

4.1. Knowledge management in virtual education

One solution would be the organization of education in such a way that teachers can participate in the design of virtual pedagogical portfolios. Must be avoided the, copy and paste syndrome acquired by many during online learning. Collaborative construction of the didactical process is a must for successful learning, teachers and students need to work and learn together to reach intellectual, cognitive, and emotional satisfaction. The internet facilitates access to educational resources regardless of their location, stimulating collaboration globally. Evaluation of competencies, skills, and/or learning achievements should be done in different contexts to be relevant, and feedback should be given a bigger role. Education needs to be synonym with trust-based professionalism and have the autonomy to adapt the curriculum to local needs. The adaptability of young people to change is crucial for the development of a changing society. We all know that this is not exactly easy to achieve. Thus, we can see that countries that do not easily adapt to changes become marginalized.

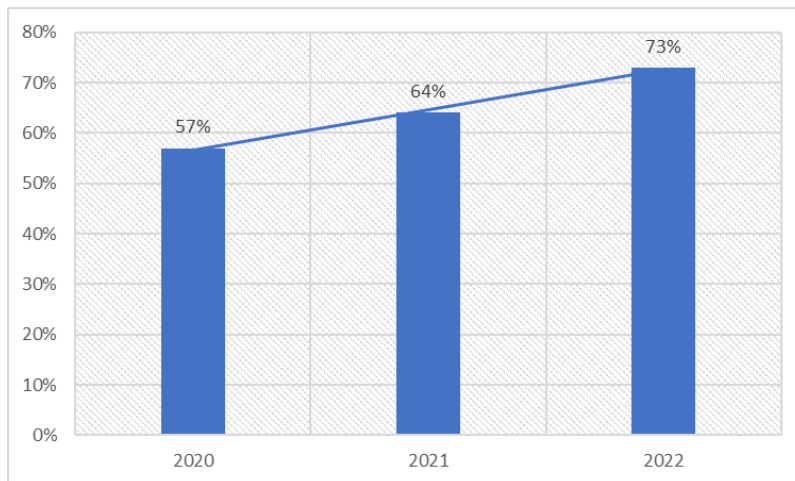


Figure 2: The adaptability of young people to "new" educational reality
Source: created by the author, based on information collected from UNESCO

5. The future of education, post-pandemic reality

The need for a new educational system that would be safe, sustainable, and equipped for all kinds of unexpected scenarios in the future is obvious. One solution for the future is to create reliable online platforms whose content meets both the educational requirements of the Ministry of Education in each country and the needs of students. To get a time-tested method it is necessary to combine traditional face-to-face learning with online virtual learning. For students aged up to 25 years, the digitalisation of education is natural, and teachers represent a special layer. In a transforming learning environment, teachers are the bridge and the key to success for young people ready for the future and a prosperous economy. And this situation is forcing teachers to rebuild their methodologies. To successfully meet the needs of

a modern economy that wants a speedy recovery education must go beyond tradition (Kalimullina et al, 2021). A personal trajectory for every student is a wish, in which improved student performance and flexibility are the first places. Given that over 50 million students are enrolled on the most popular online platforms such as Coursera, edX, XueuetangX, and Udacity must recognize the appeal of online courses. The online platforms that during this difficult period have been able to adapt the courses to the needs of the students have created a long-term partnership with them. The flexibility of the courses, the low fees and their gratuity are just some of the points of attractiveness. The educational offer is vast and diversified which can satisfy all needs. Young people's motivation during online learning is changeable also thanks to the ability to socialize online.

5. Conclusions

In the last two years, the world has undergone a forced change. Traditional education, well known to all, has been "reinvented", adapted to the new normal. The sudden transmission resulted in sacrifices, mainly due to a lack of proper technology and connections. The Internet has been a major source of both negative and positive for young people. It is sad but very true that those who had a good financial situation had access to education and were able to develop their knowledge while those with a precarious economic situation accumulated medium- and long-term disadvantages. The role of the teacher has changed but its importance has not. Parents were often forced to take on the role of teachers, even though they did not have adequate training. During this period there was a real need for adaptation and reinvention. In the future, a strong education needs to combine online and traditional education.

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