Soaring Above the Pandemic: innovative & creative practices

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To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use technologies to improve and expand access to education and training
COL and UMS

TEL Baseline survey
http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/2974

TEL policy
Implemented with COL support

Impact evaluation
http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/3483

UMS TEL Benchmarking
http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/3736
COL and UMS
Agenda

Pandemic challenges: the silver lining

International

Commonwealth of Learning

Implications for higher education
Closure of campuses

220 million Higher Education students globally affected

Pandemic challenges: the silver lining

- Emergency remote learning
- Teaching capacity strained
- Inequality highlighted
- Learning loss or learning gain?
Crisis generates creativity

Global acceptance of open distance learning
Increased teacher capacities

Teachers adopted to new skills and demand for work from home
Inequality highlighted

Students in high income countries too faced challenges to access online learning, especially due to sharp digital divide
Is learning loss real?

While there was learning loss, students also learned over and above the curriculum: resilience, time management, basic computer skills and collaboration.
What about ‘Learning Gains’?

Learning over and above the curriculum

- Resilience
- Time management
- Basic computer skills
- Collaboration
International
A range of new online courses

- Universities started many online courses
- Increased adoption of online distance education
- Increased acceptability of online training for professional development

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<th>Platform</th>
<th>New Registered Users</th>
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<td>class central</td>
<td></td>
<td>350k</td>
<td>800k</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increased use of video

- Use of mobile for video development
- Use of streaming video
- Use of webinars
- Two-way interaction

Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/trending/trending-in-india/teacher-refrigerator-tray-mumbai-online-class-6555816/
New ways of student assessment

• Alternative assessment
• Open book examination
• Oral assessment
• Online proctored examination
• Mobile apps

Source: https://www.careersportal.co.za/news/unisa-students-will-use-app-to-write-exams
Increased use of OER

Internationalization

- Drop in international students (20% in Germany; 16% in US—applications for student visas in Australia dropped by 80-90%)
- International experience at home
- International collaboration in higher education
- High quality virtual mobility
Additional support to learners

• Deferred payment of fees
• Cancelling tuition fees for students who can demonstrate to be negatively affected by the pandemic.
• Financial support for at-risk students to access equipment, Internet services, and to improve their digital skills.
COL’s Response
Guidelines
Capacity Building of Teachers
Content aligned to curriculum

- Video-on-demand: Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga
- STEM courses
Skilling and re-skilling
International Partnership of Distance and Online Learning for COVID-19

The unprecedented developments due to COVID-19 have led to the closure of educational institutions around the world. UNESCO estimates that about 80% of the world’s student population is unable to attend classes and is required to stay at home. Particularly vulnerable are those learners in developing countries who may not have access to electricity, devices or connectivity to follow online lessons which are being provided in many developed countries and urban contexts.

https://opendoor.col.org/

• Intergovernmental organisations
• Universities and educational institutions
• Associations and networks
Implications for higher education
University management

• Long-term strategy for systematic ODL
• Invest on technology infrastructure
• Review academic integrity – rethinking the policy for assessment and quality assurance
• Adopt a targeted approach for vulnerable students
• Integrate employability
Teaching and learning

• Rethinking curriculum (work integrated learning and internships)
• Focus on blended pedagogy
• Creative ways of assessment; flexibility
• Integrate OER
• Research
Support services

• Provide capacity building of staff at all levels
• Technology support team for effective online teaching
• Student’s digital competency
• Accessible counselling and guidance for PWD
• Provide mental health guidance
Riding the wave

• Self-directed learning
• Learning to learn online
• Creating an ecosystem for lifelong learning
• Providing just-in-time training for livelihoods
Soaring Above the Pandemic: 5 E’s

- Enjoyable
- Engaging
- Efficient
- Effective
- Ethical
THANK YOU

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