

IMPACT OF COVID'19 ON EDUCATION SECTOR AND WELL-BEING OF STAKEHOLDERS THROUGH VIRTUAL LEARNING IN ADVANCEMENT OF QUALITY EDUCATION

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Abstract

The sudden closure of educational institutes due to preventive measures against spread of COVID'19 has affected the educational system, functioning and well-being of stakeholders (parents, lecturers and students) globally. The World Health Organization declared corona virus as pandemic whose outbreak brought about more focus into virtual teaching-learning process. This paper thus examines the concerns of stakeholders to the social isolation and learning process can be improved through online services to promote effective teaching learning as new possibilities to the future of education after COVID'19. This paper discusses measures used during online education, challenges such as data accessibility, network issues, funding and attitude of stakeholders against face to face method. The paper employed interview and literature review to assess and analyze the pros and cons of virtual learning in advancement of quality education administration. The paper also confirmed the worries as well as evaluation of the fluctuating learning process so far and readiness of lectures and students to advance their knowledge and skills to contribute to quality education.

Keywords: *Impact COVID'19, Virtual Learning, Quality Education, Stakeholders.*

Introduction

Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) outbreak posed serious concern to global education systems. The unprepared outbreak of pandemic increased the gaps in the education sector all through the world. Through this, the effect on the welfare of stakeholders has created educational disruption, global health concerns that is a little tedious to manage by both the health and education sectors. The disease showed no sign of slowing down across the globe. It triggered the President of United States to invoke the 'Defensen Production Act'.

The government also issued national emergency as a result of growing number of new cases of coronavirus in the country (Achakpa, 2020). The outbreak affected all aspects of human activities ranging from research, health, social gathering, economy, education and politics. Infact the entire world was in total distress as a result of Covid-19 pandemic and ironically the education sector was among the sectors that had the worse hit by this great outburst. Different technologies were discovered therefore for education learning process to continue especially through virtual process. (Dum, 2003) has mentioned that virtual learning should be widely used to support learning within further and higher education institution.

Virtual learning is linked with facilities that are scheduled allowing students to download lectures notes in advance while waiting for the lecturers to release teaching slides after. Also, lecturers use virtual learning to get feedback through survey tools, prepare classroom materials and also do research work faster and precisely regardless of the location geographically of the recipients.

This paper therefore sorts to examine how the use of virtual learning can serve as an alternative for face-to-face teaching during lockdown and its impact on quality education administration.

Objectives of the Study

This paper focuses on the impact of Covid'19 on the education sector and well-being of stakeholders through virtual learning in the advancement of quality education. It's also to investigate the challenges that disrupted the continued online education during the COVID 19 lockdown.

Conceptual Framework

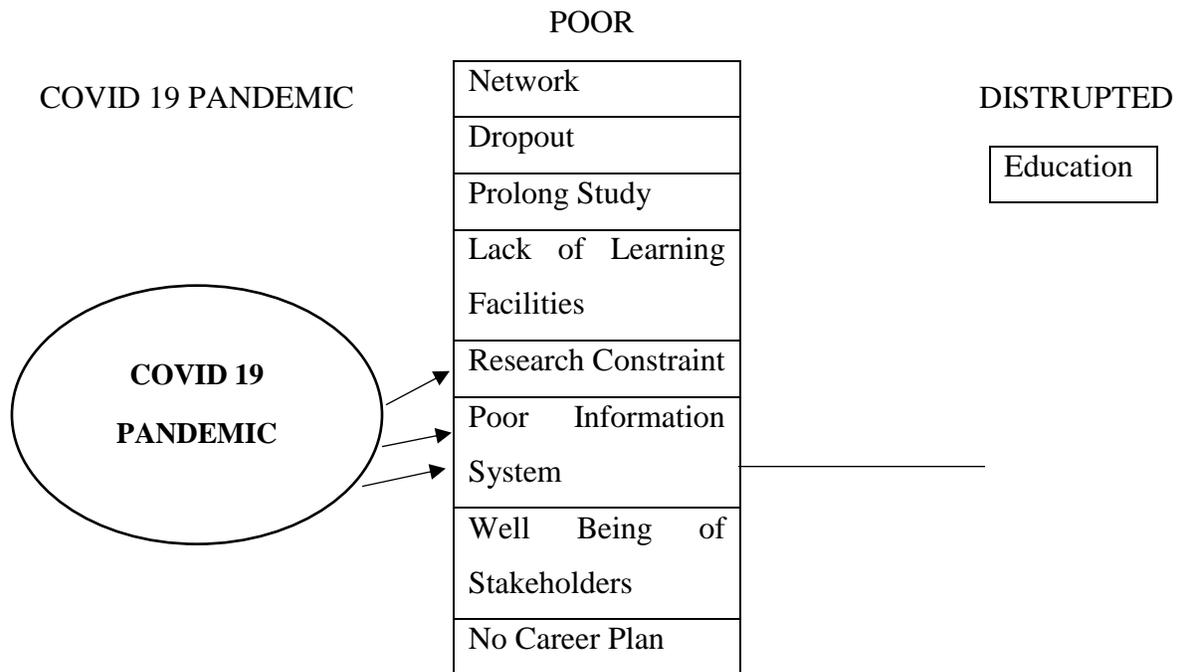


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Study (Source Research)

From the frame it can be deduced that Coronavirus pandemic affected all stakeholders in the education sector in all aspects through poor networking, dropout rates increased, lack of learning facilities (online), constraint in research work, poor information system, unstable well-being of stakeholders thus leading to little or no-career plan, in thos vane the education system was paralyzed because of sudden outbreak and thus leaving the educational planners and administrators with the alternative of re-strategizing and using innovative means of teaching-learning process which is virtual learning.

Impact of Coronavirus pandemic on Education

The COVID'19 outbreak affected all activities especially education sector worldwide. Leading to closure of schools globally (Wikipedia, 2020). The negative effect of this outbreak may be continuous in case there is no reliable solution found to the pandemic issues and the disease seems

to be spreading fast and wide, thus threatening the right of stakeholders to education. No doubt that the unexpected school closures have caused issues for policy makers and planners in the education sector.

However, against all odds empirical analysis of reactive closure of schools in past pandemic indicates that it reduces the total number of cases in the community by 25 percent and postpones the peak of the pandemic by a week or two while proactive closures of schools during pandemic remains one of the most beneficial interventions that can be employed to mitigate the impact of epidemic disease (Erika & Nicholas, 2020)

UNESCO (2020) discovered some harmful effects of COVID 19 pandemic through the closure of schools as follows:

1. Interrupted learning
2. Unequal access to digital learning portals
3. Social isolation
4. Nutrition
5. No career plan
6. Protests

Advancement of Quality Education through Virtual Learning

Due to the challenges of social distancing emerging from the COVID 19 outbreak, the education system resolved in online education to solve the challenges of face-to-face teaching learning process.

A. Virtual learning environment in educational technology is a web-based platform for the digital aspects of courses of study, usually within educational institution. Specifically, virtual learning uses computer software the internet or both to deliver instruction to students.

Among many benefits of online education virtual learning allows the recipient to enjoy a more flexible schedule can reduce the cost of education virtual learning according to Simonson and Schlosser, 2006) is defined as learning that can functionally and effectively occur in the absence of traditional classroom environments. Through virtual learning the lecturer and learner are physically separated (in terms of place, time or both. Blight (2000)

reinforces that lecturing is still the most common method of delivery in higher education despite advances in new technologies. Though the use of digital technologies and other devices are relatively new despite the societal dynamism (Clark, 2002). Virtual learning environment has been a paradigm shift to many institutions. Most designated distance education now uses virtual learning environment to make their learners feel as if they are in the real classroom.

- B. **Blending Learning:** Blended learning involves online teaching and learning activities that are added to the traditional face-to-face teaching modules, it is the combination of the two. According to Powell, Rabbit and Kenedy (2014), blended learning has a lot of influence on designing online modules/courses. It also helps the lecturer to adequately achieve their day-to-day teaching activities and enable students to reach the very highest level of educational mastery.
- C. **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS):** The COVID 19 outbreak brought an eye opener to the need for massive open online courses has become imperative for sharing knowledge as freely as possible in such a way that the learning desire is inspired by considering different constraints among students such as demographic, social, economic and geographical factors. MOOCS development is entrenched in the ideal of distance education and openness in education. This type of learning can be useful for learners who pursue educational qualifications while working. MOOCS is about different from traditional university online modules in two ways:
- Participation is not limited and it is free
 - High scale production of modules for a higher number of participants

Lee et al (2016) submitted that it is behavioral to engage in terms of completing a task, having feelings towards a task and intellectual or neutral efforts.

Highlight Challenges Related to Virtual Learning Environment Especially in Nigeria:

- Network challenges
- Time factor
- Funding
- Methodology in teaching-learning process
- Geographical location especially participants in rural areas

- Sustainability and maintenance of infrastructural facilities
- Poor Wi-Fi/data issues

Recommendation

The challenges associated with virtual learning study raised in this paper can be resolved if there is awareness and training so that participants and lecturers can be able to use more sophisticated devices, use of important courses and discussion forum for improvement, for advancement in the quality of education, the institutions need to go digital and adopt more of distance education.

Also, policy makers and planners should integrate ICT in the curriculum content for learners at all levels of Education. Education management especially in higher institutions should ensure there is alternative strategies on ground in case of any unforeseen circumstances. There should also be room for creativity and innovation in the teaching-learning process

Conclusion

The paper established that there was an adverse effect on Education through COVID'19 therefore the well-being of stakeholders was affected. Through educational institutions students, economic and political issues. The need for adoption of virtual learning was therefore adopted and this innovation helped in easing the tension of teaching-learning process that was disrupted, therefore the education sector should embrace improved technology that can support online education and also develop strategies alternatively for continuous post coronavirus era. The expansion of technology brings rapid solution to the problem of quality education administered most especially through virtual learning.

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