Open, online and distance teaching and learning during the Corona Virus pandemic

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Assumption: “People of quality use the front door; lessor folk carry their tasks at the back door. There are different accommodations provided for, and different values attached to, the learning activities carried out at each door”. (Wedemeyer, 1981)
What to do when the “front” door to education is closed?

How does this change the assumptions about distance teaching and learning?
Online and Distance Education in the Arab World

Was in the periphery for a long time.

Arab Open University: teaches face to face with physical campuses.

Traditional universities do not provide online degrees/ programs

Skepticism of online degrees obtained elsewhere

The school system is incorporating technology but no online courses offered at the school level (even in high/secondary school)

Technological infrastructure is a challenge

Good Arabic educational content/ OER is scares.

Some initiatives for online education were developing

Many higher educational institutions were using LMS (learning management systems)
Educational Systems Responses

Technological Infrastructure for Online Learning

- Incapable
- Undecided
- Preparing to move online
- Fully online

Teacher, student, parent readiness

Transition from face-to-face classroom-based teaching to blended or online teaching is a political decision
Tools/ Applications

• Variety of tools and applications
• What is possible and available?
  • Learning Management Systems (LMS): higher education institutions; Moodle, Edmodo (Egypt)
  • MS Teams (UAE)
  • Google Educational Applications (classroom, YouTube, etc.)
  • Social media (WhatsApp; live lectures on Instagram; etc.)
  • Online meetings (zoom, Go2Meeting, hangout, meet, etc.)
Alternatives: Airing Lessons on TV
New MOOC-like Platforms

Jordan
Saudi Arabia

New MOOC-like Platforms

To reach more than 6 million students: Within one week: increased from one channel to 20 channels
Course Management Platforms: Future Gate Platform: KSA
United Arab Emirates: Distance Learning in General and Higher Education

https://twitter.com/MOEducationUAE/status/1241727349420363776/photo/1
United Arab Emirates: Synchronous & Asynchronous

• Started 22nd of March, 2020 for more than 1,200,000 students
United Arab Emirates: Distance Learning in General and Higher Education

- Training 76,000 teachers to teach online (collaboration with Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU))
- Involvement of school administration
- Support center
- Community participation in funding the initiative

Community Participation

Making paid content free in some platforms (Similar to what Amazon is doing in making audio children books free)
Distance and Online Education: For How Long?

- Examinations?
- Practicums and lab work? (teaching practice?)
- Quality of online teaching and learning!
- Certification of learning?
## Epistemology of Online Learning

### Distance Education vs. Schooling (K-12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andragogy: Teaching of adults</th>
<th>Pedagogy: Teaching of children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent learning</td>
<td>Dependent learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learner-centered</td>
<td>Teacher-centered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-regulated</td>
<td>Other-regulated</td>
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Learner Self-Regulation Skills

- Planning
- Self-monitoring
- Effort-regulation
- Self-efficacy
- Help-seeking
- time and environment management
Moving towards Online Teaching

Supporting Learners
How to help learners to learn on their own?
How to increase self-independence?
How to help them better regulate their learning?

Supporting Teachers
Skills: Training required to teach online effectively and efficiently
Readiness: attitudes and perceptions
Work-life balance: More preparation time on the teacher (Online teaching requires more time than face-to-face, especially at the beginning)
Rethink the Future of Education and the Role of Technology in it
Rethink the Future of Education and the Role of Technology in it

- Will education be the same after the pandemic?
- Will teachers retain the skills learned through this experience?
- Will policy makers rethink of the role of distance teaching and learning as a mainstream education in the Arab world?
- Will there be more certification and accreditation of online degrees and credentials?
Resources for online teaching and learning

• Certificate from Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University. : 'Be an online tutor in 24 hours'

• Future Lean MOOC: How To Teach Online: Providing Continuity for Students

• Teach from Home التدريس من المنزل from Google and UNESCO (In Arabic)