

COVID-19 Pandemic And Possible Trends For The Future Of Higher

Education: A Review Kara Augustine Muchiri

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Abstract

COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the abrupt closure of higher education institutions globally. Through a desktop review, this paper explores possible influences of the pandemic on the future of higher education. The pandemic disrupted teaching, research and community service in higher education. There has been loss in revenue streams and human resources. To mitigate disruption on the academic calendar, institutions leveraged Information Communication Technology (ICT) to deliver administrative services and emergency remote teaching. A new equilibrium of disrupted classes with undisrupted learning through virtual platforms emerged. Some amplified challenges in the new norm include unreliable internet connectivity, access to ICT infrastructure and preparedness for online pedagogy. Other difficulties include online delivery of science, technology, mathematics, practicals and quality assurance. Inequalities have been magnified between learners, institutions and countries in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The study ultimately contends progressive uptake of blended learning as the new frontier in higher education. Institutions require capacity building on online pedagogy, greater investment in ICT infrastructure and a holistic e-learning quality assurance framework that infuses achievement of desired learning outcomes with Maslow Hierarchy of needs. In adapting to the new normal in the academic environment, a paradigm shift is expected towards the entrepreneurial university, institutional mergers and strategic planning that incorporates disaster management.

Key words: covid-19, higher learning, academic environment