

Review of: "Online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learned and what's next?"

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The manuscript entitled "Online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learned and what's next?" contains interesting and potentially valuable information. In my modest opinion, however, several concerns need to be addressed before publication is warranted. The following are some of these concerns:

First and foremost, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic while stressing that this declaration does not imply that the disease is no longer a global threat. The paper seems to have been written during the pandemic with no consideration of ensuing events. Should the author update the language and the content of the paper to include more current events? For instance, the author states that "[t]he paper highlights the problems students may face during this transition". This is a considerable amount of empirical evidence in the extant literature on how students responded to the online instruction demanded by the pandemic. There is no need to use "may".

The information contained in the current version of the manuscript appears to be a reiteration of information already published in the literature. Indeed, there is a considerable number of papers that contain very similar information. The author needs to spell out how the manuscript contributes to the extant literature. Namely, what does it say that others have not said? A thorough review of the literature may indeed offer a different or a more nuanced assessment of how different parties (including students, educators, and administrators) responded to the requirements of the pandemic and its aftermaths. From such responses, the author may gather innovative and insightful suggestions, which can be then presented as "lessons learned".

Most importantly, the extant literature contains studies that describe the responses of institutions in different geographical areas as well as a variety of institutional responses. Should the author consider the variability inherent in people's reactions to sudden and unexpected disruptions of their habits within the social systems in which they exist? Alternatively, if the author wishes to consider a more local approach to the pandemic, empirical evidence collected at a selected locality may be helpful.