

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In regards to the paper, I have the following comments:

The paper is well-prepared and well-written overall, and therefore, the author deserves appreciation for his hard work.

Abstract

The abstract lacks specific information about the study's objective, methods, and results. As a reader, it is unclear whether this paper serves as an introductory overview or an analysis/commentary on the shift to online learning during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Introduction

The introduction could benefit from a more critical perspective on the shift towards online learning, including the potential drawbacks and limitations of this approach, and how it affects student learning outcomes and academic institutions in the long term. From this viewpoint, the following are some points that should be seriously taken into mind:

1. It is important to acknowledge the potential drawbacks and limitations of online learning. For example, the lack of face-to-face interaction could hinder student engagement and result in reduced opportunities for hands-on learning. Additionally, students may face distractions that could negatively impact their learning experience.
2. It is essential to consider the impact of online learning on student learning outcomes. While online learning can provide flexibility and convenience, it is important to determine if students are able to retain information and develop critical thinking skills through this mode of education.
3. It is critical to examine the long-term effects of online learning on academic institutions. This includes changes in enrollment patterns, shifts in faculty roles and responsibilities, and changes in the types of courses and programs offered.

Filling the Gap

The following are some suggestions for author:

1. Provide more examples and statistics to support your arguments. For instance, when discussing the lack of resources in many households, you could cite specific data for different regions or countries to provide a more nuanced

perspective.

2. Use storytelling techniques to bring your points to life. For example, you could share anecdotes of individuals who have struggled with online learning due to the lack of resources or difficulties with the transition.
3. Break up the section into smaller paragraphs with clear headings to make it easier to read and follow. This will also help you to focus on specific aspects of the topic and provide a logical structure to your argument.

Who Will Pay the Price

1. While this section focuses on the financial impact of the shift to online education, it does not delve deeper into the potential benefits and drawbacks of online learning for students and instructors. Additionally, the section does not address the issue of unequal access to technology and resources, which can affect the quality of education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
2. While the section briefly touches on the challenges faced by instructors in adapting to online platforms, it does not explore this topic in depth or provide specific examples of successful strategies for addressing these challenges.

What We Have Learned So Far and What's Next?

Overall, the section provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of education amid the COVID-19 pandemic and some of the recent findings related to online learning. However, there are some suggestions to improve the section:

1. While the section does mention some countries' situations, it would be helpful to provide a more comprehensive overview of how different regions and countries are handling the return to in-person learning. Additionally, the section could include more information on how the pandemic has affected students' mental health and well-being.
2. The latest data mentioned in the section is from August 2021, and given the rapidly changing situation, it would be beneficial to cite more recent sources to provide up-to-date information.
3. While the section does provide some examples of how different countries have been impacted by online learning, it would be helpful to provide more specific examples of how universities and schools have adapted to the pandemic, including specific policies and practices that have been implemented.
4. While the section does mention the benefits of hybrid learning, it could provide more solutions for universities and schools to overcome the challenges they face in implementing hybrid learning, such as ways to ensure equitable access to technology and internet connectivity for all students.

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to read this interesting paper.