

Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) ONLINE FORUM



Digital Inclusion in the Time of Covid19 – Challenges and Opportunities in Academia

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Presentation Outline

- Background of the Topic.
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Conclusion

Study background

- Digital Inclusion is a phenomena essential to ensure that everybody and communities, including the most vulnerable or underprivileged, have access to ICTs and also use or applied them in their daily activities.
- Digital inclusion is often defined in terms of Digital skills , Connectivity and Accessibility.
- Covid19 is the disease caused by a novel coronavirus.
- First reported in China in Dec., 2019 and then rapidly spread out in more 213 countries as at 26th May,2020.

- As at today 26th May, 2020 this novel corona virus has affected more than 5.5 million people globally.
- More than 346 thousand has died from the disease.
- More than 2.2 million people has also recovered.
- As at 26th May,2020, Ghana has 6,808 confirmed cases of Covid 19 with 2,080 recoveries and 32 deaths.
- According to Amina , 2020 “We are facing a human crisis unlike any we have experienced" and our social fabric and cohesion is under stress”.

- COVID-19 is having dramatic consequences for millions of people's work-life balance, and academics are no exception.
- According to UNESCO, 9.8 million African students are experiencing disruption in their studies due to the closure of higher education institutions.
- For academics, confinement policies enacted by most countries have implied a sudden switch to home-work, a transition to online teaching and mentoring, and an adjustment of research activities.

Challenges

- Lack of proper Teaching and Learning Methods.
- Cancellation of academic conferences, seminars and symposia.
- Poor Research output.
- Delays in research publications.
- Low intake of students in the future.

Opportunities

- Promote collaboration over competition within academia.
- Redefine our Teaching philosophies.
- Opportunity to focus and do proper design of models/framework ,do proper data analysis and writing thesis/articles with fewer distractions.
- Thinking of innovative ways of using secondary data so that the end results will be like using primary data.
- Promoting student centered learning.

Conclusion

- Government has do more.
- Expand the ICT infrastructure
- Redefine Education in Ghana.



Thanks “Medaase”