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 26\textsuperscript{th} May, 2020.
• As at today 26\textsuperscript{th} 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 26\textsuperscript{th} 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”