

Re-Conceptualizing Sustainable Learning: Reflections on Opportunities Post COVID -19 for Selected Universities in South Western Kenya

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge to academic institutions especially when they were closed and learning had to continue online as access to quality education is a fundamental human right. The Sustainable Development Goal no 4 seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This is coupled with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 which countries have committed to uphold. The pandemic led to approximately 1.725 billion *learners* the world over being out of school. Many institutions were caught unprepared for the new environment. The institutions implemented the online learning using different platforms to ensure continuity of learning that proved to be demanding and hectic. These events brought into focus many of the existential risks for each university and the steps that universities needed to take to maintain academic continuity during the pandemic. The study aimed at assessing the lessons learnt by the institutions of higher learning and the opportunities the pandemic presented so as to inform institutional preparedness that will ensure continuity of learning in uncertain times. Some of the lessons included the realization that teachers urgently need training in digital pedagogy in the new environment. The wellbeing of students and teachers must be taken care of as there has arisen a new issue of mental and physical wellness. Technology must be accessible to the populace for the learners to access them as among others

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