(Thema)

COVID - 19 Online Studies:

Chances and Challenges

Bachelorarbeit

zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades „Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)" im Studiengang Wirtschaftsingenieur der Fakultät für Elektrotechnik und Informatik, Fakultät für Maschinenbau und der Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Leibniz Universität Hannover

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1   Contents

2 Thematic Introduction

2.1 Status

<u>'Technology is a blessing – but it can also be a curse'[1]</u>

Over the last twenty years, the Technology became a massive influence on people's everyday life. The Internet itself has grown from being nearly non-existing into the largest, most accessible database of information ever created. But the modern world might not be able to exist without technology, especially and most importantly the immediate access to new information.

Figure 1

Even more in this year 2020, where a pandemic infection has directly and indirectly affected so many people across the world. In late December of 2019, the COVID-19 also known as the Coronavirus was transmitted from animals to people in the city of Wuhan in China[2]. Typical symptoms of COVID-19 are common cold, experiencing fever and coughing and in the most serious cases it can lead even to death[3].

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[1] Alexandra Pittman, "Technology Can be Blessing, Curse to Students: Students become lost within their own technologies," 2012, https://stars.library.ucf.edu/ucf-forum/195/, accessed August 2020.
[2] Wei-Jie Guan et al., "Clinical Characteristics of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in China: affected patients," *The New England journal of medicine* 382, no. 18 (2020), https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2002032, accessed September 2020.
[3] Unicef and WHO, "Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools: Facts about COVID-19, Students and Children," (March 2020), https://covid19-evidence.paho.org/handle/20.500.12663/792, accessed September 2020.

The digital transformation is concerning the lockdown, part and parcel of the education. The face-to-face learning is not possible nor even allowed. As a result, students must study online.

2.2 Motivation and Relevance

No person has expected that 2020 will be different, that people are social isolated to save other lives. From one day to the next the Internet has got an immense important role, especially from the viewpoint of Universities, Professors and Students. The typical student life going to the University, meeting fellow students, and attending lectures is not possible anymore. Accordingly, everything must be done online with immediate effect, but without any exact elaboration because the crisis was sudden, to that there is no rigorous end in sight.

This is the key motivation of this work, to clarifying the situation about online studies for both sides, Professors and Students, and it may create good inspiration for the future success.

Now, the pandemic is still not over, and it is not clear if there is a second wave, especially for Europe because of the situation out of Europe being much worser. When the second wave comes, the second Lockdown is not to avert. That means the attitude is that the pandemic will be over but with a risk of a second lockdown. Therefore, it is a crisis with a worldwide and long term impacted consequences having no solution yet. Some early surveys are just finished yet, but there are so many more outstanding issues., not to mention to the long-term consequences regarding healthy and economy.

The pandemic hits everyone and every situation asking how and by whom the individuals humans have been affected. In addition, the constant online presence has been set up to cover the complementary higher education. Moreover, the education system cannot shutdown in any manner because educational formation was, still is and will forever be the future. Knowledge is one of the most important and finest bridge-building elements available to humankind.

Ultimately, the crisis has unfortunately no final point. To this end the society needs an acceptable solution to be allowed to live beyond that situation. Especially students who which have been invested a lot of time and money for a bachelor's degree or master's degree.

2.3 Definition

<u>Digital transformation</u>

'**…**is the technology-induced change caused by digital business. It embraces the necessary goal-oriented organizational, process, and technological transformation necessary for organizations to succeed in the digital age. Digital transformation requires organizations to understand how business models can be implemented and how digitalization changes how organizations are managed.' (Digitalization, Opportunity and Challenge for the Business and information Systems Engineering Community, Springer, 2017, C. Legner, T. Eymann, T. Hess, C. Matt, T. Böhmann, P. Drews, A. Mädche, N. Urbach and F. Ahlemann)

<u>E-Learning:</u>

'**…**is deemed to include any technology that can assist learning; therefore, it must include radio, television, digital projectors, computers, and so on.' *(Online Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, 2006, Shirley Bach, Philip Haynes, Jennifer Lewis Smith)*

<u>Online learning:</u>

'**…**is more concerned with the medium of communication that technology creates, rather than the technological products themselves, for example the networking of computer-based communication.*' (Online Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, 2007, Shirley Bach, Philip Haynes, Jennifer Lewis Smith)*

<u>COVID-*19:*</u>

'**…**is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-CoV.' The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.*'* (Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools, paper, March 20

6 Conclusion

All in all, online study replaces the usually face-to-face learning at University in a good way. The exception proves the rule. Online education via platforms with social networks are future-oriented. In my opinion the campus management system has a lot of good reasons and make the work much easier for students, especially in the current situation. The modules should be more uniform. The reason is the successful learning should not be independent on professors' technical affinity and motivation. I think a good idea is that professors and departments get a technical support.

In addition, the work shows that the crisis has unbelievable negative effects on student's health, learn potential and success. The student's success can be indirectly affected in a negative way caused by the pandemic and it is nobody's fault.

Finally, I think the university should find a better humanly solution for the long term, because now it feels like the university is proud that everything is going normally forward. But this is not the case. The daily life is still not normal since the lockdown.

In the end some universities have an 'joker-semester'. I know this option has also pros and cons, but at least the positive aspect is that it is good for the mental health.