MANAGING EDUCATION CRISIS BEYOND FACE-TO-FACE RESUMPTION

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The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a serious education crisis globally. With the schools shutting down and transitioning to remote learning to mitigate the spread of the virus, learning institutions strategically implemented varied distance learning modalities. While the face-to-face resumption of classes is gradually being implemented in different countries, the education crisis encountered beyond face-to-face resumption still persists.

One of the biggest challenges is lack of access to technology and internet. Many students, particularly those from low-income families, do not have access to the technology and internet needed for online learning. This digital divide has resulted in a significant number of students being left behind and unable to fully participate in remote learning. In addition, many students living in rural or remote areas may not have access to reliable internet connectivity, making it difficult for them to access digital resources and participate in online classes.

Another major challenge is inadequate support for students with special needs. Online learning can be particularly challenging for students with special needs, as they may not have access to the same level of support and accommodations they received in a traditional classroom. This can lead to a lack of engagement, difficulty understanding and retaining information, and frustration for both students and their families.

Online learning can also be less engaging for students than in-person instruction, making it harder for them to focus and retain information. This can be due to the lack of social interaction and the inability to ask questions and receive immediate feedback from

the teacher. Furthermore, online learning can exacerbate existing disparities in educational opportunities, as students from disadvantaged backgrounds may not have the same resources and support as their more privileged peers.

The shift to online learning has also placed a significant burden on teachers, who must adapt their instruction to a new format, and on parents, who may need to assume a greater role in their children's education. This can be overwhelming and can lead to burnout, which can further exacerbate the education crisis.

Finally, online learning can lead to a decrease in social interaction and mental well-being among students, as they may not have the same opportunities to connect with peers and teachers. This can have a negative impact on their mental health, as social interaction and relationships are vital to human development and well-being.

There are several strategies that can be implemented to manage the education crisis in time of COVID-19 pandemic:

Providing technology and internet access: Governments and schools can work to provide students with the technology and internet access they need to participate in remote learning. This could include distributing laptops or tablets, offering internet subsidies, or providing free Wi-Fi in certain areas.

Offering specialized support for students with special needs: Schools and universities can offer specialized support for students with special needs, such as providing additional resources, accommodations and support services to help them succeed in remote learning.

Implementing blended learning: Blended learning is a combination of online and in-person instruction, which can help to increase engagement and make remote learning more effective. This can be done by scheduling classes online and in-person, or by providing online resources to supplement in-person instruction.

Increasing teacher professional development: Teachers may need additional professional development to effectively implement remote learning and to support students' needs. This could include training on new technologies, strategies for teaching online, and how to address the needs of diverse students.

Providing mental health support: Students and teachers may be experiencing stress and anxiety due to the pandemic. So, it is important to provide mental health support, such as counseling and resources to help them cope with the challenges they are facing.

Providing online resources and materials: The schools and universities can provide online resources and materials, such as videos, interactive activities, and online textbooks, to support remote learning and to help students stay engaged and motivated.

Encouraging parental engagement: Parents can play a critical role in supporting their children's education during the pandemic. Encouraging parental engagement, such as through regular communication and providing resources for parents to support their children's learning at home, can be helpful.

Collaboration and coordination: Collaboration and coordination among government, schools, and other stakeholders is crucial in addressing the education crisis during the pandemic. This can include sharing resources and best practices, coordinating efforts to provide technology and internet access, and working together to address the needs of vulnerable populations.

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