

Emergency Remote Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Experience of a Recently Established Medical College

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ABSTRACT

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has many severe consequences for human life, including general and higher education. Schools, colleges, and universities closed in response to the international and national recommendations and policies to prevent the spread. Medical schools were facing the risk of an immediate shift to online teaching and learning versus the risk of no learning. Closure of educational institutions has an immediate and long-term impact on the learning process. This impact can be direct or indirect as well it could be negative or positive. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of educational institutions highlighted many important aspects and issues related to the teaching and learning process, including preparedness for critical situations, digital learning, and others, so the next few years surely will be different. This paper aims to share the experience of the authors in the shift to fully emergency online teaching and learning. The shift to emergency online instruction was realized through a developed plan based on identified priorities, setting realistic goals, creating principles, close monitoring of implementation, collection, and analysis of data, and immediate intervention, remediation, and improvement. This experience shows that a shift to emergency remote learning is possible and successful if it is well-planned.

Keywords: COVID-19, emergency remote learning, online teaching, online learning, social distancing

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