

## 'Never Waste a Good Crisis' (Machiavelli)

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Impact of pandemic COVID 19 affected the whole world especially the educational institutions suffered a lot<sup>1</sup>. UNESCO has reported that 'more than 1.5 billion students and youth across the planet are or have been affected by school and university closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic'<sup>2</sup>. The crises have highlighted the fragility of the educational system<sup>1</sup>. The crisis creates not only the challenges but opportunities and innovations as well. The whole world has learnt different lessons from COVID-19 pandemic. To manage the educational crisis contingency plan should be designed with smart objectives, develop system of evaluation, remain in continuous communication with internal and external stakeholders by quick response feedback and set timelines. This will help out in early detection of loopholes and resolution of issues.

As this pandemic is a crisis it could be managed by proper plan. To protect the future from further damage institutions must plan strategically against the different types of risks involved due to pandemic crisis and make sure that undelivered and compromised learning outcomes should be compensated for example, missed clinical competencies during clerkships should be included in internship by the institutions.

Recent research revealed that "the implementation of 'pandemic and disaster themed training programmers' can be an effective intervention in boosting students' knowledge, attitude and skills and enhancing their pandemic preparedness"<sup>3</sup>.

Iranian study revealed a "significant difference in perception of COVID-19 related risks between students being trained in emergency and those trained in non-emergency wards, as well as a significant negative association of risk perception with preventive behavior". Papapanou M et al, further showed that "in spite of knowledge and skills remaining a prerequisite, readiness to respond to pandemic-related duties varies between students and depends on their age, stimuli and experience"<sup>3</sup>. In Singapore, medical educators were focused after suffering from previous H1N1 pandemic and developed a contingency plan of hybrid atmosphere using traditional methods as well as innovative technological tools to overcome the similar future crises<sup>3</sup>.

Certain measures are required to be taken in the challenging situation and to move forward for a better future:

1. Build task force: including members from faculty, administration and students as well to resolve the issues.
2. Choose simple technology: Select user-friendly simple technology techniques as transformation towards digital learning is not easy for all. Focus should remain on delivering important and essential material instead of over-indexing on technology to make it fancy<sup>1</sup>.

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3. Facilitate the facilitator: Do not isolate the faculty, collaboration with administration resulted into successful digital transformation. Make a feedback loop on which faculty highlight the issues, what is good and useful, what doesn't work, needs further improvement, shared the solution. By this way of communication faculty do not feel loneliness. Even the solo faculty or those with traditional mind can learn, adapt, change and deliver in a better way<sup>1</sup>.

4. Concentrate on essentials: In face to face classroom much information can be delivered but not in virtual as the time runs out and may be the important information remain undelivered. Redesign the teaching plans, keep simple and focused according to virtual and hybrid as well. Digital fatigue is another issue so the lessons should be short, engaging and crispy.

5. Virtual and Hybrid: While moving to virtual and hybrid learning minimize the technical issues, smooth running of sessions, logistics, seating arrangement with social distancing.

6. Build social interaction for learning: About 50% learning occurred outside of the classroom. Peer and faculty interaction are valuable part of learning including guided activities, group projects, chats, WhatsApp discussions etc.

Such plans intact the provision of medical education even in the threatening situations. A teamwork through science is one of the greatest tools of humanity to deal with threats<sup>3</sup>. According to Christine Gregoire: 'Education is the foundation upon which we build our future'<sup>1</sup>. The pandemic provides an opportunity to reflect on what will be the future of learning for Generation Z, Alpha and beyond<sup>4</sup>.

## References

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