THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN NAMIBIA AMIDST COVID 19 CHALLENGES.

OUTLINE

- Status of Covid on the Continent
- Status of Covid in Namibia
- Education in Namibia
- Effect of Covid on Namibian Education





COVID ON THE CONTINENT AS OF FEB 2021

Source:https://africacenter.org/spotlight/coronavirus-spreads-through-africa/

Quick facts: Africa

8.39 million cases continently

211 853 deaths

South Africa most affected country

*sources vary on the exact numbers. *https://www.statista.com/statistics/1170530/coronavirus-deaths-in-africa/



Quick Facts: Namibia

- Cases to date 129 041
- Deaths 3564
- Recovered 125 325
- Fully vaccinated 274 466

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION



4.0 IR Artificial Intelligence 5.0 IR? Zoom, Teams and other platforms

Virtual Class

Smart phones



Source: Country report, by Reuben Lembani

Education in Namibia

- Home to 3 large higher education institutions:
 - 2 fully publicly funded universities
 - 1 private university
- University of Namibia: 28 000 students
- Namibia University of Science and Technology: 14 000
- International University of Management : 12 000
- All offer degree programmes in various disciplines and In different modes (full and part time)

Education in Namibia

- The future of education in Namibia will require the rapid adoption of ICT.
- Developing countries are at a slight disadvantage with the rollout of education online because of the penetration and sophistication of ICT infrastructure.
- Africa (Namibia alike) holds an advantage of high mobile penetration, the level of sophistication is a challenge: for instance most rural areas are not equipped beyond 3G and therefore makes it difficult for students to participate in online classes and overall learn online.
 - Requires an upgrade of infrastructure and provision of resources.

Education and Technology

- Covid 19 is the catalyst of a speedy adoption of technology in education.
- Education in the post Covid world requires a heavy reliance on technology for delivery and learning:
 - 1. Education facilities will have to be repurposed for hybrid/blended learning.
 - 2. Curricula must incorporate the importance of digital and emotional skills(cater for the new world order were students engage virutally- what that will do to development and mental health).
 - 3. Stakeholder collaboration for ensuring equitable access to education (the marginalized will be disporprotionately affected)

EDUCATION FACILITIES REPURPOSED

- The need for large education premises may not be necessary going forward.
 - Premises that are equipped with all necessary ICT infrastructure to enable lecturers to pre-record lectures and delivery quality content.

2. CURRICULA

• Teaching 4.0/5.0 IR relevant skills- especially pertaining to soft skills.

• Equipping students with digital and social/emotional skills to work with technology emersed fields.



Source: WEF, 2020

3. STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

• The collaboration of government, private, public sectors and civil society to ensure students are equipped with laptops and other gadgets to access education material.

E.N.D



