THE FORMATION OF ONLINE EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 AND ITS RELEVANCE TODAY

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Abstract: *The purpose of this study is to highlight the importance of online education during the pandemic and the current role of this education system. The impact of online learning through the pandemic has been far-reaching and profound. The COVID-19 pandemic period gave continues access to education. Education has also been closed, and through online education pupils and students have been able to continue their education. The process of education remained through virtual classes, video lectures and online assignments. Educators had to adapt quickly to digital platforms like Zoom, Google Classroom, and Microsoft Teams. Traditional teaching methods were transformed to suit virtual settings, encouraging innovation in lesson delivery and student engagement.*

Key words: *Online learning, COVID-19, pandemic, PINE, Universities, schools, education system, Internet connection, technologies.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to school closures around the world, resulting in a sudden shift to online learning for students.For many students, this shift has resulted in lower academic performance.Nowadays, education around the world has been suffering many problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and most of the people who are affected directly are the students. The researchers have focused on students from Estatal Peninsula de Santa Elena University, to be specific students from (PINE) "Pedagogia de Los Idiomas Nacionales Extranjeros". Students from PINE used to have face to face classes and now they have turned into online classes. Most of the students at first thought it would be a good idea to be at home and not going to University, they could save money and time and that is true. Dhawan (2020) said, "It is student-centered and offers a great deal of flexibility in terms of time and location".In the era of COVID-19, online education has grown rapidly globally and has become the main form of instruction for many education systems. As a result of the closure of schools and universities during the pandemic, traditional education has been disrupted and the need to switch to online platforms and distance learning technologies has arisen.

COVID-19 has changed the way people live around the world, with people advised to keep their distance and limit travel as often as possible and these security measures apply to education as well. In Germany, all schools are closed until April 20,2020. The state government has recommended distance learning and additional learning materials via an online system. While the UK government has not issued joint

guidance on online learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some schools have introduced online learning depending on their situation . After the first case of COVID-19 in South Korea, the localMinistry of Education postponed the start of the year schools four times, and since then they have implemented a phased online approach for the start of the semester. Many universities in China have decided to cancel face-to-face classes and implement online learning for student and faculty safety (Wang et al., 2020). According to UNESCO (2020), more than 100 countries have closed their schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and millions of students have experienced education disruption. Also, Naciri (2020) explains that, thousands of universities and colleges around the world had closed their institutions to encourage social distancing measures in order not to get the virus. On the other hand, students from PINE did not thinkabout the problems they would face such as technology connection, Internet connection, and home environment. Horton (2003) says, "Each of the participants, producers, host, and learners require three forms of technology: Hardware, a network connection, and software, the learners also require a personal computer to access and network connection of at least moderate speed". Adaptation to high-speed computer platforms during the pandemic phase. Traditional installation methods have been adapted to the online format, which has led to innovation in the educational process. Online learning give development of technological skills. In the process of online education, students actively use computers and other digital technologies and increase their level of technological literacy.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the formation of online education has emerged as a compelling necessity. As traditional education systems have been suspended due to quarantine restrictions, students and teachers have been forced to switch to online platforms. Initially, this brought many difficulties to the educational process: deficiencies in the technological infrastructure, limitations in Internet connection, and the need for teachers to adapt to online methods. However, online education has developed rapidly and created new opportunities. Interactive teaching methods, multimedia materials, and distance learning opportunities have increased. Also, the flexibility of online education has made it easier for many students to plan their time independently. Today, online education remains relevant because it has been accepted as a complementary tool to traditional education. Many educational institutions are adopting hybrid (blended) learning models, demonstrating the benefits of online learning even in the post-pandemic era. At the same time, in the development of online education, the issues of creating equal opportunities for technological tools, quality control and increasing efficiency remain relevant.

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