Making Effective Online Teaching

The COVID 19 pandemic has encouraged higher education institutions to apply online teaching instead of in-class teaching and this is likely to continue for the indefinite future. Although some students and faculty have raised concerns about problems with online teaching and lack confidence in its effectiveness, but many are still new to the online experience which was not practiced earlier as a whole. Here are some of the problems and some potential solutions.

Internet connectivity

In some countries, the network is too busy and their speed or quality is not good enough. Some universities require faculty to follow their normal schedule. Yet the reality is that thousands, and sometimes even lakhs of students, will be on the same platform at the same time, which massively challenges the network. One way of dealing with this is to encourage faculty to upload their teaching resource beforehand and guide students to learn at their own pace and time. The faculty only organise discussions and question & answers according to their normal schedule.

Faculty Training

Many faculty do not have the same experience of online instruction as they have for traditional (in-class) teaching. To address this requires student-centred education. Teaching should not be based on what knowledge the faculty can impart, but instead on what students need. Faculty should instead let students express their opinions, reflect, act and cultivate their professional skills. Setting a good example for students, addressing their common problems and promoting creative ideas and unique solutions are good strategies.

Student engagement

The students' commitment to learning is not as high and the faculty do not know whether they are taking learning seriously. However, faculty could use a test to evaluate students' learning and their online participation process could be counted as part of their final exam results in order to motivate students to participate. The final exam should be used as a way to test the effectiveness of daily online teaching.

Collaborative Learning

Effective communication between students is must but at times this does not happen. This can be done through designing collaborative learning content. Faculty could instruct students to form study groups according to their interests and cooperate to complete group assignments. This will increase communication between students, stimulate students' enthusiasm for learning, promote an autonomous learning atmosphere and enhance the breadth and depth of students' thinking.

A New Learning Exercise

Faculty are taking double, even triple workloads to try to adapt to online teaching as a new platform for delivery of teaching content and to prevent their students from wasting their time during this period of being stuck at home. It is a huge challenge for schools and faculty. They may have made some mistakes at the beginning of this crisis, but they are now trying to battle against the coronavirus in their own way, at home.

This unexpected disease is a global challenge also also a massive opportunity. One way the in -class teaching has declined and on the other hand the online teaching / e-learning is booming. Some experts feel that it is impossible for online teaching to completely replace in-class teaching. However, the proportion of online teaching in future education is bound to increase and its importance will also increase.

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