

Remote Learning and COVID-19

World Bank Support to Distance Learning in Higher Education

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June 9, 2020

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What the World Bank does in Higher Education

1. **Prioritize higher education systems:** Accessing higher education remains the surest way out of poverty, and has many other societal and economic benefits. But higher education systems do not reach the poorest. We engage in a dialogue with governments around these issues around the world.
2. **Invest in higher education systems:** **The World Bank invests in low and middle income countries that do not have access to international capital.** Higher education investments represent about 25% of our total education portfolio, which is typically around \$20billion.
3. **Provide an evidence-based voice:** **The Bank leads analytical work.** We support data collection and impact evaluations to make sure that our projects reach the targets that are set out.

Six things we have learned during the last few months

1. **Inequality in connectivity**: Students (and faculty) do not have enough **connectivity** and **devices at home**. The digital divide remains strong, between countries and within countries. We need to create more
2. **Teaching: Faculty were not ready to deploy content**. While most faculty is active online, they had probably not taught in online mode before. They need 24/7 support.
3. **Learning: Students are not experienced as online learners**. While they may be quick to adapt, **students will complain**, and probably in larger numbers than they usually would. Use this to strengthen teaching.
4. **Mistakes**: In an emergency, we need to learn by doing, but **it has been difficult to correct our mistakes**. Pay attention to key issues: build in feedback, don't lock yourself into long-term contracts, protect students' data.
5. **Regulation: The regulatory environment is not (yet) aligned to online learning**. How is online learning regulated? Is it accredited? Is the telco market competitive? How are data being treated?
6. **Evidence: There is no strong evidence base on how students learn in distance learning**. Which services are key to learning? How far do they reach? How is data from distance learning secured and analyzed publicly?



External web site: [Remote Learning, EdTech & COVID-19 web page](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/edutech/brief/edtech-covid-19)

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