

Policy Implications for Teaching during the Health Emergency

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COVID-19 Emergency Policy Response

- ▶ Teaching modality - Immediate shift to Online teaching
- ▶ Technological platform - Adoption and mandate for use of G-Suite for Education to support online teaching
- ▶ Building Pedagogical Capacity- Training of teachers
- ▶ Increased Technological Capacity- Access to devices for teachers, students, connectivity etc
- ▶ Improvement in Curriculum Readiness, Content and Instruction
- ▶ Configuration of Virtual schools and Classrooms and appropriate protocols
- ▶ Implementation of psycho-social, emotional and family support systems
- ▶ Development of Monitoring and Evaluation of learning mechanisms
- ▶ Enhancement of cyber security, privacy and data protection

National Health Emergency Decisions

- ▶ Immediate closure of all public and private educational institutions
- ▶ Adoption of strategies to ensure and maintain the continuity of learning especially for the marginalized and most vulnerable students
- ▶ Immediate escalation of teacher training to ensure capacity across the school system
- ▶ Immediate declaration of policy regarding the Online Platform - G-Suite for Education
- ▶ Consolidation of previous two terms work - No new concepts to be introduced

National Health Emergency Decisions

- ▶ Provision of access to devices for all students especially the vulnerable
- ▶ Provision of access to devices for all teachers
- ▶ Technological support for teachers, students and parents
- ▶ Use of all avenues for learning, Online, video, radio, Television etc
- ▶ Public Relations/communications campaign to get messages and information to teachers, parents and students

Pedagogical Capacity

POLICY

- ▶ Mandatory use of Online teaching in Term 3

IMPLICATIONS - Pedagogical Capacity

- ▶ Preparedness, number and readiness of teachers across the system with the competence and skills to deliver online teaching

ACTIONS TAKEN

- ▶ Immediate training of Information Technology Coordinators across all schools
- ▶ Development of a training plan for teachers to build capacity
- ▶ Distributed training (ITCs conducted training of staff)
- ▶ Changes to instructional design and presentation skills
- ▶ Sharing of best teaching practices and collegial collaboration

Pedagogical Capacity

- ▶ Online teaching guides and protocols and videos produced
- ▶ Consultation with Unions, Principals and Administrators
- ▶ Determination of a national strategy and plan for the delivery of online teaching and learning

Technological Capacity

POLICY

- ▶ Mandated use of G-Suite for Education as online teaching platform

IMPLICATIONS - Technological Capacity

- ▶ Technological availability/accessibility for teachers and students to devices, connectivity etc

ACTIONS TAKEN

- ▶ Access to devices for teachers, redeployment where feasible
- ▶ Access for students (Prioritize vulnerable) procurement, distribution and contracts
- ▶ Preparedness, readiness and capacity of students to use online modality
- ▶ Partnerships and corporate support - G-Suite for Education Tech Drive
- ▶ Incentives to invest in devices
- ▶ Reliable Technical support
- ▶ Help desk

Technological Capacity

- ▶ Information videos
- ▶ Upgrading of Ministry Website
- ▶ Communication and PR campaign
- ▶ ISPs - Free access to e-learning platforms/internet mobile network, Google classroom, Google Meet, Websites have been zero rated
- ▶ 2600 teachers, 35 000 students

Curriculum, Content and Instruction

POLICY

- ▶ Ensure the continuity of learning for all students through the use of all available and accessible educational media

IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ Adoption and adaptation of existing content and development of new content as necessary

ACTIONS

- ▶ Access and distribution of digital texts, e-books
- ▶ Use of audio, video, radio, television and online educational resources
- ▶ Digitization and dissemination of existing content
- ▶ Development of new content as needed
- ▶ Use of a dedicated national television channel
- ▶ National Cultural Foundation Development Programme

Configuration of Virtual schools and Classrooms

- ▶ Nature and structure of the virtual schools and classrooms
- ▶ Commencement of the school term (Delayed start), duration (Shortened), format (Online),
- ▶ Modified timetabling, adjusted class lesson duration according to age groups,
- ▶ Accounting for the attendance of students and teachers
- ▶ Duration of classes,
- ▶ Limitations on student screen time according to age groups

Psycho-social, emotional and family support

POLICY

- ▶ Provision of counselling support through virtual counselling and tele-counselling

IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ Stress of Home-based learning vs Home schooling
- ▶ Health risks (Mental health)
- ▶ Parental technological capacity and support capability

ACTIONS

- ▶ Virtual Counselling support and tele-counselling implemented
- ▶ Establishment of Hotline and dedicated counselling support email
- ▶ Development of Protocols for use by parents/students /Safe use protocols
- ▶ Guidelines for home facilities
- ▶ Time on tasks and use of technology age specific guidelines/imposition of screen time limits
- ▶ Feeding programme for vulnerable students

Monitoring and Evaluation of learning

- ▶ Determine effectiveness of strategies deployed
- ▶ Level of engagement and participation of teachers, students, parents, administrators (Research required)
- ▶ Device acquisition and deployment
- ▶ Content adaptation and development
- ▶ Ensuring learning takes place
- ▶ Measuring learning outcomes - Formative Assessments
- ▶ Determining the effectiveness of the online teaching and learning option
- ▶ Feedback to students and parents
- ▶ School and home learning collaboration
- ▶ National standardized online assessment system
- ▶ Distance Education requires - high level of Self-directed learning, self discipline, strong study skills

Enhancement of Cyber security, privacy and data protection

- ▶ Strengthening cyber security
- ▶ Protection of Learners' rights and privacy
- ▶ Ensuring effective data security and protection
- ▶ Ensuring familiarity and compliance with the Data Protection Act 2019

Response to COVID-19

- ▶ **Policy options** and implications
- ▶ **Strategies** to drive pedagogical transition
- ▶ **Opportunities** - advances in modern technology
- ▶ **Potential challenges** - mitigation strategies
- ▶ **Sustainability** - future development options and opportunities
- ▶ Shift from traditional face-to-face to online learning;
- ▶ A device for every student and teacher
- ▶ Pedagogical and Technological Capacity
- ▶ G-Suite for Education
- ▶ Tech Drive; Partnerships
- ▶ Long term technology enhanced teaching solutions