

COVID -19 AND MODERN DISTANT EDUCATION

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SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- WHEN WE LOOK AT EDUCATION IN GENERAL IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC AREAS WE SEE A CERTAIN PARADOX:
- WHILE IN ALL VARIOUS APPLICATION AREAS WE SEE THE UTILIZATION OF THE LATEST ICT AS THE COMMON PRACTICE INCLUDING NANOTECHNOLOGIES, BIG DATA, MOBILE PHONE COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNET OF THINGS ETC. AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEM
- WHEN WE LOOK AT RECENT TRENDS IN EDUCATION THE SAME HIGH TECH TECHNOLOGIES HAVE UNTILL RECENTLY NOT PLAYED ANY ADEQUATE ACTIVE LEADING ROLE IN EDUCATION INCLUDING THAT OF HIGHER ONE

EDUCATION IN PRE COVID-19 TIMES

- EDUCATION IN MOST TYPES OF SCHOOLS EVEN IN THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WAS LIMITED TO PRACTICAL UTILIZATION JUST ONLY SOME BASIC ICT TECHNOLOGIES
- FOR PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES MOST OF THEM WERE LIMITED TO THE UTILIZATION OF THE POWER POINT SLIDES AND THEIR PRESENTATIONS
- UTILIZATION OF THE LAPTOPS AND WALL SCREENS BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
- UTILIZATION OF VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL PACKAGES TO BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH INTERNET AND E-MAILS

OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

- THEN THE COVID -19 OUTBREAK HAS HAPPENED
- AND ALL STUDENTS AND PUPILS HAVE FROM ONE TO NEXT DAY HAD BEEN FORCED TO STAY AT HOME AS CLASS ROOM EDUCATION HAS BEEN ABRUPTLY CANCELLED
- UNFORTUNATELY IN SOME COUNTRIES LIKE E.G. SLOVAKIA THE SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED AS THE FIRST ONES AND TEMPORARY REOPEN AS THE LATEST ONES
- ALTHOUGH IT WAS STATISTICALLY PROVED THAT THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MUCH BETTER RESISTANCE AND IMMUNITY THAN THE REST OF POPULATION

THE REACTION TO THE NEW COVID SITUATION

- THE WAYS AND MEANS TO OVERCOME THE SCHOOL CLOSURES:
- HOME EDUCATION
- DISTANT & INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
- INTERNET AND E-MAIL BASED EDUCATION
- ONLINE EDUCATION
- HYBRID EDUCATION
- MOBILE PHONE EDUCATION
- SELF STUDIES
- PRE-RECORDED CLASSES AND LECTURES
- SELF LEARNING
- MS TEAMS
- ZOOM

HOME EDUCATION

- AS ALL SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CLOSED HOME EDUCATION HAS BECOME THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALL KINDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS
- THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH THIS KIND OF EDUCATION HAS BEEN WITH PUPILS OF THE LOWER CLASSES OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AS THOSE KIDS WERE NOT READY TO BE LEFT ON THEMSELVES
- IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THAT PROBLEM THE PARENTS OF SMALL KIDS GOT SPECIAL LEAVES IN ORDER THEY COULD HELP TO SMALL PUPILS IN LEARNING

DISTANT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

- AS THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE CLOSED SCHOOLS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ESPECIALLY FOR THE STUDENTS UNDER THE ERASMUS+ THERE WAS INTRODUCED THE DISTANT EDUCATION
- ESPECIALLY E.G. IN THE CASE OF THE ERASMUS+ STUDENTS THIS DISTANT EDUCATION HAS BECOME A KIND OF A SPECIAL CASE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
- THE MAIN INSTRUMENTS FOR THIS KIND OF INTERNATIONAL DISTANT EDUCATION WAS BASED ON THE INTERNET AND E-MAIL BASED EDUCATION
- AS AN OTHER MAIN TOOL OF THE DISTANT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION HAVE BECOME THE INTERNET AND EMAIL BASED EDUCATION AND ESPECIALLY PACKAGES LIKE E.G. MS TEAMS, ZOOM, ETC.

ONLINE EDUCATION

- FROM TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW THE EDUCATION DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMY WAS BASED ON THE SYSTEM OF ONLINE EDUCATION
- TECHNICALLY THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH THIS ONLINE EDUCATION AS THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL BASES WERE AVAILABLE
- THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THAT WITH THIS EDUCATION THERE WAS MISSING THE SO IMPORTANT ASPECT OF EDUCATION AND THAT BEING **FACE TO FACE** COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF YOUNGER PUPILS
- IN ADDITION IN GENERAL FOR ALL STUDENTS THERE WAS MISSING THE **SOCIAL ASPECTS** OF EDUCATION I.E. RELATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND PUPILS PALS AND ESPECIALLY THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT LED TO THE SOCIAL ISOLATION AND OFTEN TO MENTAL PROBLEMS

HYBRID EDUCATION

- AS FROM TIME TO TIME THE SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN FOR A WHILE OPEN THERE WAS EXISTING ALSO A MIXED FORM OF EDUCATION I.E. A KIND OF HYBRID EDUCATION
- IT WAS CONSEQUENCE OF THE SITUATION THAT HAPPENED WHEN SCHOOLS WERE TEMPORARY OPEN BUT E.G. FOR FOREIGN ERASMUS+ STUDENTS WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF THEIR STUDIES
- HENCE PART OF STUDENTS WAS PARTICIPATED IN THE CLASS ROOM EDUCATION WHILE THOSE WHO COULD NOT RETURNED THE CLASSES WERE RUNNING IN HYBRID MODE I.E. SOME STUDENT BEING PRESENT SOME WERE EDUCATED IN ONLINE DISTANT MODE

MOBILE PHONE EDUCATION

- DURING ALL THOSE PANDEMIC EDUCATIONS THE MOBILE ESPECIALLY SMART PHONES HAVE BECOME INDESPENSIBLE INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS FOR EDUCATION
- MOST DISCUSSIONS AND ESPECIALLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSIONS WERE CONDUCTED THROUGH MOBILE PHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BUT ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES IN MODE OF INFORMAL AND IMPORTANT SOCIAL CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.
- IN ADDITION TO THAT THE MOBILE PHONES HAVE BECOME THE MAIN COMMUNICATION INSTRUMENTS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR ALL KIND OF THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDING THOSE REGARDING THE EVALUATION OF STUDENTS AND PUPILS PERFORMANCE, GRADES, EDUCATION RESULTS, ETC.

SELF STUDIES AND LEARNING

- It is quite logical that in addition to various other ways and means of education and learning there more important role was in self studies and learning
- Especially for students of middle/high and higher education this kind of study forms have become more widely used than under the normal circumstances
- In order to make self studies and learning more efficient this form of studies and learning was supported by the pre-recorded classes and lectures and further being supported by pre-recorded classes
- Various kinds of e-study and e-learning materials and pre-recorded classes were produced and distributed electronically to students and pupils

PRE-RECORDED CLASSES AND LECTURES

- As mentioned in connection with the previous self studies and learning they were supported by the pre-recorded classes and lectures
- Every teacher has recorded his or her lectures through the available recording technologies
- There were two kinds of such technologies combining audio and/or together with video recordings
- The main advantage of these technologies have been that they were given students for their individual use so practically could be used at any time and any place what make them one of the most appreciated ways and means of education during the pandemic

MS TEAMS & ZOOMS

- AS THE MOST EFFICIENT TOOL AND INSTRUMENT FOR ONLINE EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMY HAS BECOME SOFTWARE PACKAGES LIKE MS TEAMS AND ZOOM
- ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS OF MIDDLE AND HIGHER EDUCATION THEY BECOME THE MOST POPULAR AND MOST WIDELY USED TECHNOLOGIES
- THEY BECOME SO POPULAR THAT EVEN NOW AFTER THE PANDEMY RESTRICTION ARE NOT YET EXISTING, THEY ARE STILL USED FOR EDUCATION
- IN MY PERSONAL CASE I AM STILL USING MS TEAMS FOR EDUCATION ESPECIALLY FOR COURSES AND CLASSES FOR EXTERNAL STUDENTS

IN SUMMARY

- IN GENERAL WE COULD STATE THAT ALL ABOVE WAYS AND MEANS OF ONLINE EDUCATION TO SOME EXTENT MANAGED TO PROVIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION DURING THE PANDEMY
- SOME OF THESE TOOLS ESPECIALLY THOSE LIKE MS TEAMS OR ZOOM HAVE BECOME SO POPULAR THAT THEY HAVE BECOME TO BE UTILIZED ALSO DURING THE POST PANDEMIC TIMES
- IN ADDITION TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONS THEY BECOME MOST POPULAR ALSO DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE HELPING TO REDUCE THE COST OF EDUCATION DUE TO THIS CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS
- THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT THEY CANNOT FULLY REPLACE THE FACE TO FACE TEACHER – STUDENT COMMUNICATION
- THERE IS ALWAYS ONE IMPORTANT NEGATIVE E.G. IN TESTING STUDENTS STUDY RESULTS
- BUT UNDER THE CURRENT CONDITIONS OF HIGH INFLATION AND ENERGY CRISIS THEY COULD DIRECTLY HELP TO A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF THE OVERALL COSTS OF EDUCATION
- IN GENERAL WE COULD STATE THAT THE COVID 19 PANDEMY HAS AT LARGE CONTRIBUTED TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION IN EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS OF SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONS

General Lessons from COVID – 19 Not Only for Education

- In spite of all technological development also in health this COVID -19 pandemic has shown clearly negatives of globalization
- WHO has admitted that with its budget on the level of a modern hospital is not in position to lead fights against global pandemic
- Although there exist Commissioner for Public Health there was general claim by the EC that the health does not belong among EU common policies
- EU clearly demonstrated that in spite of all declarations on unity, mutual cooperation the member states prefer their own national interest
- Common procurement of anti-Covid (Pfizer) immunization by the EC for all EU member states was too slow and inefficient
- The EU strategy based on investments to education has totally failed, the schools were in general first to be closed although kids and young people showed the much better resistance than the general public

IN CONCLUSION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN

OR PLEASE SEND ME YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO MY EMAIL ADDRESS:

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