



EDUCATION IN THE PERIOD OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: December 24 th 2022 Accepted: January 26 th 2023 Published: February 28 th 2023	The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on all aspects of our lives, including education. The quarantine measures applied by multiple countries of the world affected different education types and systems. In most countries a total transition to online learning has taken place. Distant learning is a form of education in which the student's location is remote from the teacher and educational resources, the teaching is carried out with the help of computer technologies.

Keywords: Pandemic, education, COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION: The coronavirus outbreak has affected billions of people across the planet. According to the latest data (as of April 20), the total number of infected is about 2 million people, mortality figures out at 6% of the number of infected (Worldometers).

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared coronavirus a pandemic. In 188 countries around the world, it was decided to temporarily close educational institutions in order to contain the spread of the virus.

The scale of the measures taken is unprecedented and, according to UNESCO, has affected 90% of the world's students - over 1.5 billion people. Experts believe that such measures will slow the virus spread rate, since children can potentially be latent carriers of the virus.

The closure of educational institutions has the same consequences regardless of the country, time and culture. First of all, the question arises of looking after children whose parents carry out work activities. The simplest solution, using child care providers, may no longer work in light of the risks posed by the spread of the virus.

As a result of the cessation of the activities of universities, the dormitories belonging to them are being closed. Consequently, all over the world we are observing problems with housing for students who cannot return home by some reason. Part-time students

are also experiencing problems with work and food, as most of the businesses they worked in are also closed due to quarantine regulations.

Another important issue is the maintenance of continuity of education. Most countries of the world are moving to distance learning in the form of radio broadcasting, online platforms and broadcasting lessons via television.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK: to study the advantages and disadvantages of distance education.

RESEARCH MATERIAL AND METHODS: We compiled a questionnaire consisting of 25 questions. These questions were related to the adaptation of students to distance learning, satisfaction with learning during a pandemic, the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning, and commonly used types of operation in distance learning.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: 44 2nd year students of the medical faculty of SamMI took part as respondent, 20 (45.4%) of which were female and 24 (54.6%) were male. The average age of the respondents ranged from 19 to 22 years. Many of the students had difficulty adapting to new learning conditions, so adaptation was poor for 28 (63.6%)



students, good for 8 (18.2%), satisfactory for 6 (13.6%) and excellent for 2 (4, 6%).

Studying remotely was found "convenient, but difficult" for 26 (59.1%), "inconvenient, very difficult" for 14 (31.8%) and "both convenient and easy" for only 4 (9.1%) students. The level of motivation to study during this period decreased in 28 (63.6%) of the respondents, remained unchanged in 10 (22.7%), and 6 (13.7%) hesitated to answer. 36 (81.8%) students are dissatisfied with the distance learning process and only 8 (18.2%) students were satisfied.

In distance learning, various educational methods and tools were used: webinars, Zoom sessions with students, the website of the SamMI distance learning center, online lectures (YouTube), presentations. According to 28 (63.7%) respondents, the study load during the quarantine period generally decreased, 14 (31.8%) did not remark changes, 2 (4.5%) hesitated to answer. 32 (72.7%) students assess the work of the teaching staff in terms of distance teaching as satisfactory, "bad, failed to deliver a topic" - 10 (22.7%) students and "good" - only 2 (4.6%).

In learning process, students encountered the following difficulties: insufficient knowledge of computer technologies (59.1%), difficulty in performing practical tasks without decent teachers' guidance (27.3%), other (13.6%). The technical problems faced by students during distance learning are insufficient PC knowledge and poor Internet speed (40.9%), the necessity for Internet access (27.3%), poor feedback (15.9%), no problems (15.9%). The percentage of students dissatisfied with the process of distance learning amounts at 86.4%, whereas the portion of satisfied equals to 13.6%.

CONCLUSION: Based on our research, we can figure out that the advantages of distance learning are the low risk of COVID-19 contamination, comfortable and habitual learning environment, and individual learning pace. The disadvantages of distance learning are the indispensable necessity for the Internet accessibility, as well as poor Internet connection, lack of computer skills in our students, which are essential for distance learning for both students and teachers. Also, various educational platforms with high-quality and appropriate material are required for distance education.

In general, the students are dissatisfied with the distance learning, they believe that the motivation for learning gets reduced with distance, although the workload was diminished for the majority of them. In addition, the distance learning lacks such properties as feedback and live communication according to the most respondents. The transition to the distance form of education has proven that this learning format can be considered as an alternative to the conventional learning in conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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World Bulletin of Public Health (WBPH)
Available Online at: <https://www.scholarexpress.net>
Volume-19, February 2023
ISSN: 2749-3644

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