

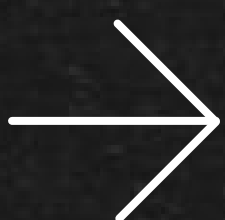
LIFE AFTER COVID-19

مؤسسة دبي للمستقبل
DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION



FUTURE TRENDS

EDUCATION



INSIGHTS IN BRIEF



More than **775 million school children** have been affected by school closures around the world as a result of COVID-19



EdTech is a growing market with more people consuming **education online.**



The UAE has the opportunity to become **a regional hub for online learning in the region**



SITUATION

Education is one of the sectors that has been required to change rapidly in response to COVID-19. Schools and universities have been closed due to the pandemic and education institutions have been obliged to offer distance learning platforms to students who require ongoing teaching. Globally, UNESCO reported that 776.7 million school children were affected by school closures as of March 16¹. Although some students are taking 'breaks' from schooling for the short term, others wish to continue their studies online so as to not affect their progression through school.

Many efforts have been taken globally to ease the transition for students and parents. UNESCO, for example, has developed a web-page with educational applications and platforms to help parents, teachers and schools make use of distance learning, as well as providing a degree of social care and interaction while schools are closed.² Other platforms such as Coursera have offered to be freely available globally to any university affected by Covid-19.³ Locally, KHDA has launched a new platform called "In This Together", which is a new resource to help the education community take full advantage of online and distance learning.⁴

¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/879ba44b-fa16-4a9d-afa4-f7f4e149edec>

² <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-emergencies/coronavirus-school-closures/solutions>

³ <https://www.coursera.org/coronavirus>

⁴ inthistogether.khda.gov.ae



OPPORTUNITY

Although the UAE, among other countries, has been considering changes in education for some years, COVID-19 has required authorities locally to take the first few steps into a future they had been planning to build more gradually. Academic institutions put all on-campus teaching activities on hold a month ago, and have started to implement distance learning. Had the crisis not occurred, this change might well have taken years of planning, prototyping and other steps before being implemented.

Due to the necessity of schooling, and in an effort to maintain normal routines for children, governments have been seeking to use innovative methods to ensure a seamless transition to learning from home.⁵ In effect, this phase could be seen as a pilot project. Governments will be able to use this experience to develop and improve platforms for distance and life-long learning. As people are learning individually, systems are likely to become more personalized, focusing on the specific needs and interests of each student.

⁵ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1640651>

LOOKING AHEAD >

Short term insights ● during the COVID-19 outbreak

New guidelines, regulations and platforms will be created to accommodate the high demand for distance learning. It is already clear that Education Technology start-ups are benefiting as more and more students are moving towards online learning at this time. India's EdTech market, for example, is projected to be worth \$2 billion by 2021, based on 9.6 million users. ⁶

India's EdTech market
projection for 2021



⁶ <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/will-coronavirus-make-online-education-go-viral#survey-answer>

LOOKING AHEAD >

Short to long term insights (post COVID-19)

1.

Regulatory bodies in education may begin setting up more transformative changes to traditional schooling, developing innovative solutions such as training parents as teachers, in order to change systems proactively, rather than reacting to unexpected circumstances.

2.

As out-of-classroom learning becomes more widespread students and parents will become more involved in designing both learning tools and the teaching curricula.

3.

The balance of fees payable to schools, software developers and online curriculum providers will change dramatically in systems where school fees are payable. Schools may require less physical space as student cohorts may access buildings on a rota system throughout the day.

4.

A global debate can be expected on the recognition and validity of online learning and the qualifications achieved online.