

HEFMA CONFERENCE

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Sustainable Campus: Perspective from the top

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higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Perspective on blended learning post Covid 19

- ❑ Covid-19 significantly disrupted traditional teaching and learning modalities in South Africa and the world. The number of out-of-school youth rose beyond 1.1 million in 2020 in the country. Approximately 1.6 billion in about 191 countries.
- ❑ To adapt educational institutions shifted to online and blended learning modes.
- ❑ The transition got confronted with challenges but also opportunities.
- ❑ There is consensus at management and administration level that online blended learning will become the dominant mode in the future.
- ❑ Management and administrators hold the view that the merits of online teaching and learning outweighs the demerits.
- ❑ The implementation of blended teaching and learning can improve the outcomes, increase accessibility and contribute to the country's economic activism and enhance lifelong learning.

Challenges and disadvantages of blended teaching and learning

Amongst the challenges and disadvantages is:

- ❑ Readiness of infrastructure to allow massification
- ❑ Digital divide, fragmented landscape
- ❑ Socio-economic factors
- ❑ Knowledge capacity to utilise digital tool, both lecturers and students
- ❑ Legislative bottlenecks.
- ❑ Inconsistent connectivity and electricity supply.
- ❑ Job security concerns from Academic Staff, drawing in organised labour.

Opportunities and benefits of blended teaching and learning

The opportunities and benefits include but not limited to:

- ❑ Increased accessibility and inclusion
- ❑ Accelerated innovative pedagogics
- ❑ Provides flexibility through accommodating part-time and working students
- ❑ Provides personalised learning in self-pacing
- ❑ Cost-effective
- ❑ Increase economic growth and development

Strategies to enhance implementation of blended learning

Pre-implementation of blended learning requires:

- ☐ Conduct needs assessment
- ☐ Develop clear policy and framework
- ☐ Establish a dedicated blended and learning team
- ☐ Provide professional development for educators
- ☐ Ensure infrastructure and technology readiness
- ☐ Funding norms and standards to consider technological affordances for students
- ☐ Synchronise implementation plans at micro, meso and macro levels of the educational system
- ☐ Quintalised recapitalisation
- ☐ Enforcement of change management

Strategies to enhance implementation of blended learning

Implementation of blended learning requires:

- ❑ Design engaging online content
- ❑ Integrate technology-enhanced learning tools
- ❑ Foster collaborative learning communities
- ❑ Secure and utilise learning management system
- ❑ Provide infrastructure and technology enabling environment
- ❑ Continuous development of lecturing staff

Thank You!

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SAFE**

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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT COVID-19





About Us

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is one of the departments of the South African government. It oversees universities and other post-school education and training in South Africa.

DHET was established in 2009 when the former Department of Education was divided into two sections: Basic Education and Higher Education and Training.

The mandate of the new Department included aspects of skills development and was specifically established to focus on post-school education and training holistically and has extended its scope of operations extensively.



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