



## THE CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC PROCESS

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### ABSTRACT

*Covid-19 is the virus, which have killed uncountable people in the world. It was first identified in december 2019 in wuhan, Hubei province, China and then spread to the world and most of the countries affected by this Covid-19 virus. All world countries economies affected badly and major disruptions to daily life and the global economy. The outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO on january 30,2020 and later a pandemic on March 11,2020. Government around the world implemented various measures such as lockdowns, travel restrictions, and social distancing to curb the spread of the virus. The pandemic has had far-reaching social,economic,and health crises. Efforts to combat COVID-19 continue,with ongoing research, vaccination drives, and international cooperation to mitigate its effects.*

**KEY WORDS:** Covid-19, Academic process, Changes

### INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing global health crisis caused by the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The outbreak was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China and has since spread to almost every country in the world. The virus primarily spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. It can also spread by touching surfaces contaminated by the virus and then touching one's face. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, although some cases can be asymptomatic. Governments and health organizations across the world have implemented various measures to slow down the spread of the virus. These include social distancing, wearing face masks, hand hygiene, and lockdowns or quarantine measures. Travel restrictions have also been imposed to limit the spread across national borders.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on public health, economies, and societies. It has caused millions of confirmed cases and deaths worldwide, overwhelming healthcare systems in some areas. Many countries have experienced economic recessions and job losses due to lockdown measures and reduced economic activity. Efforts to combat the pandemic include the rapid development and distribution of vaccines. Multiple vaccines have been approved for emergency use and are being rolled out globally to immunize populations and control the spread of the virus. As the pandemic continues, it is important for individuals to follow public health guidelines and receive vaccinations to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant changes to the academic process at all levels, from elementary schools to universities. Some of the key changes include:**

**1. Shift to remote learning:** To maintain social distancing and prevent the spread of the virus, schools and universities have shifted to online learning platforms. Classes are now conducted through video conferencing tools, online learning management systems, and digital resources.

**2. Cancelled exams and assessments:** Many exams, especially large-scale standardized tests, have been canceled or postponed. Alternative assessments, such as online quizzes and projects, have been implemented to measure students' progress and knowledge.

**3. Altered academic calendars:** Educational institutions and teachers have had to adapt their teaching methods to online platforms. They have been utilizing different digital tools and techniques to engage students, such as prerecorded lessons, interactive quizzes, and virtual group discussions.

**4. Limited access to physical resources:** Libraries, computer laboratories, and other physical resources are either closed or have limited access. Students and researchers are encouraged to use digital resources, e-books, and online databases for their academic needs.

**5. Adaptation of teaching methods:** Teachers and professors have had to adapt their methods to online platforms. They have been utilizing different digital tools and techniques to engage students, interactive quizzes, and virtual group discussions.

**6. Reduced social interactions:** The pandemic has affected the social dynamics among students, as face-to-face interactions and group activities are limited. Students are facing challenges in terms of teamwork and collaboration, as well as the lack of socialization opportunities.



**7. Increased reliance on technology:** The pandemic has accelerated the integration of technology in education. Teachers and students are relying heavily on various digital tools, such as video conferencing software, online collaboration platforms, and learning management systems.

**8. support for mental health:** educational institutions are prioritizing mental health support for students and staff who may be experiencing increased stress and anxiety due to the pandemic. Counselling services, online support groups and mental health resources are being provided.

**9. digital examinations and assessments:** with remote learning, traditional pen and paper exams have been replaced with alternatives. Online proctoring tools and anti-plagiarism software are being used to ensure academic integrity and monitor students during exams.

**10. Impacts on research and scientific conferences:** Many research projects and experiments have been postponed or disrupted, leading to delays in academic progress and publication. Scientific conferences have also moved to virtual formats, limiting the opportunities for networking and presenting research.

Overall, the changes brought about by COVID-19 have significantly altered the academic process, requiring both students and educators to adapt to new modes of learning and teaching.

### **Abstract changes of academic process due to Covid-19**

The academic process has undergone significant changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to maintain social distancing and reduce the risk of transmission, many educational institutions have shifted from traditional in-person classes to online or remote learning. This transition has brought about several abstract changes in the academic process.

**1. Online Learning Platforms:** Educational institutions have adopted online platforms, such as learning management systems (LMS) or video conferencing tools, to facilitate online classes and academic interactions. This shift enables students to access course materials, submit assignments, and engage with professors and peers remotely.

**2. Virtual Classrooms:** Virtual classrooms have become the new norm, allowing teachers and students to meet and interact virtually. These platforms offer features like live video lectures, real-time discussions, chat options, and collaborative tools. The academic process now relies heavily on these online platforms to deliver lectures, conduct discussions, and foster student-teacher interactions.

**3. Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning:** With online learning, the academic process has become more flexible. Institutions offer both synchronous and asynchronous learning options. Synchronous learning involves real-time interactions, like attending live lectures or participating in discussions. Asynchronous learning, on the other hand, allows students to access pre-recorded lectures or materials at their convenience and complete assignments within given timeframes.

**4. Remote Assessments:** Traditional in-person exams have been replaced or modified to fit remote learning environments. Institutions are opting for online assessments, including timed quizzes, online exams, and open-book assignments. These changes aim to ensure academic integrity while adapting to the limitations imposed by remote learning.

**5. Collaborative Digital Tools:** To promote collaborative learning and group projects, digital tools like cloud-based document sharing platforms, project management software, and virtual whiteboards have gained popularity. These tools facilitate seamless collaboration among students and enable them to work on academic projects remotely.

**6. Increased Self-directed Learning:** Online learning requires students to take more responsibility for their own learning. They need to manage their time effectively, set goals, and independently engage with the course material. This shift promotes self-directed learning and enhances skills like time management and self-motivation.

**7. Adaptation of Pedagogical Approaches:** The pandemic has challenged traditional teaching methods, prompting educators to adapt their pedagogical approaches to suit online environments. They have incorporated more interactive and engaging methods, such as multimedia presentations, online simulations, and gamification, to enhance student learning and maintain engagement.

**8. Focused Support Systems:** The shift to remote learning has necessitated the establishment of robust support systems. Institutions have reconfigured student support services, including academic advising, counseling, and technical assistance, to cater to the unique challenges faced by students in remote learning environments.

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the academic process to adapt to remote learning models, utilizing technology and innovative approaches to ensure continuity in education. These abstract changes have transformed how students learn, engage, collaborate, and take assessments, and may continue to impact the future of education even after the pandemic wanes.

### **What is the difference between academic process before Covid-19 in relation to present scenario**

Before COVID-19, the academic process primarily revolved around traditional in-person classes, physical classrooms, and face-to-face interactions. Here are some key differences between the academic process before COVID-19 and the present scenario:

**1. In-person Classes:** In the pre-COVID era, students attended classes on campus, interacting directly with professors and classmates. Presently, online or remote learning has replaced the physical presence in classrooms, and students engage with course materials and peers through virtual platforms.



**2. Physical Campus:** Academic institutions were active and bustling with students, faculty, and staff. Students had access to campus facilities like libraries, laboratories, and sports facilities. In the present scenario, campuses may be closed or have restricted access, with limited physical interactions and activities taking place.

**3. Classroom Dynamics:** In-person classes allowed for real-time discussions, immediate clarifications, and physical demonstrations of concepts. Remote learning, however, often lacks the same level of immediate interaction and dynamic exchange due to technological limitations, time delays, or connectivity issues.

**4. Social Interactions:** Pre-COVID, students had ample opportunities for social interactions through extracurricular activities, clubs, student organizations, and events. With remote learning, social interactions have been limited, leading to reduced opportunities for socializing and networking among students.

**5. Time and Location Flexibility:** Before COVID-19, students typically had fixed class schedules and had to physically attend classes at specific times and locations. Presently, remote learning offers more flexibility in terms of scheduling, allowing students to access course materials and complete assignments at their convenience.

**6. Assessment Methods:** Traditional assessments before COVID-19 included in-person exams, quizzes, and presentations. The current scenario has seen a shift toward online assessments, including timed exams or open-book assignments, to adapt to remote learning environments and maintain academic integrity.

**7. Support Services:** Pre-COVID, students had access to on-campus support services such as academic advising, counseling centers, and study groups. These services have transitioned to remote delivery, with students receiving support through virtual platforms, emails, or video calls.

**8. Pedagogical Approaches:** In the traditional academic setting, educators relied on face-to-face teaching methods, such as lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities. Due to remote learning constraints, instructors have had to adopt more innovative pedagogical approaches, incorporating multimedia resources, interactive assignments, and virtual simulations to engage students and enhance learning outcomes.

These differences highlight the substantial changes in the academic process, from physical presence and interactions to virtual classrooms and remote learning. Institutions have had to rapidly adapt to ensure continuity in education while maintaining the quality of instruction and student engagement in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Characteristics of academic process and its functions**

The academic process refers to the systematic and methodical approach followed in educational institutions to deliver knowledge, develop skills, and assess student learning. It encompasses various activities, systems, and interactions aimed at facilitating effective teaching and learning. The characteristics and functions of the academic process in student life are as follows:

**1. Structured Learning:** The academic process provides a structured framework for students, offering a well-defined curriculum and learning outcomes. It establishes a systematic progression of knowledge and skills, ensuring that students acquire a comprehensive understanding of their field of study.

**2. Continual Learning Journey:** The academic process is a continuous journey that spans various stages, from early childhood education to advanced levels of higher education. It provides students with a clear path for intellectual growth, development, and specialization, ensuring a progressive and comprehensive education.

**3. Knowledge Acquisition:** One of the primary functions of the academic process is to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge. Through lectures, readings, research papers, and assignments, students gain a deep understanding of various subjects, theories, concepts, and practical applications.

**4. Skill Development:** Along with knowledge, the academic process focuses on developing a range of skills in students. These can include critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, analytical skills, research skills, and creativity, among others. These skills are essential for personal and professional success beyond academics.

**5. Personal Growth and Development:** The academic process promotes personal growth and development by encouraging students to explore their interests, passions, and talents. It allows them to discover their strengths, develop self-discipline, and cultivate intellectual curiosity, fostering a holistic development approach.

**6. Intellectual Engagement:** The academic process aims to engage students intellectually improvement.

**7. Personalized Learning:** The academic process recognizes the individuality of learners and provides opportunities for personalized learning. It offers a range of electives, specialization options, and co-curricular activities, allowing students to explore their interests and tailor their education to suit their career goals and aspirations.

**8. Academic Support Systems:** The academic process offers various support systems to assist students throughout their educational journey. These systems include academic advisors, guidance counselors, libraries, resource centers, and tutoring programs, providing guidance, mentorship, and additional resources to enhance student learning and success.

Overall, the academic process plays a vital role in student life by providing a structured framework, fostering knowledge acquisition and skill development, promoting personal growth, and preparing students for future academic and professional pursuits. It serves as the foundation for intellectual and personal development, ensuring that students gain a comprehensive and well-rounded education.



## CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 pandemic, profoundly impacted the academic process, forcing educational institutions to adapt swiftly and creatively. It highlighted the importance of addressing educational inequalities, ensuring technological access for all, and supporting the mental well-being of students and educators. The experiences of the pandemic are likely to influence the future of education, encouraging a more flexible and inclusive approach to learning.

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