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## **Online Education for Undergraduate Nursing Students During Covid-19 in Saudia: Policy Brief**

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**Abstract.** Online education is very important during the pandemic of the COVID-19, so all the countries apply the online education to protect the student from infection, in the universities, there are practical and theory courses in the theory courses it is very easy to apply the distance education but in the practical courses it is very difficult to apply the online education, we can use the traditional teaching method in the lab with safety precaution to protect the student from this COVID-19, we mean by the practical courses that is requiring demonstration in the lab by the students, the aim of the current policy is to identify the main advantages of the distance education, we can apply training programs for the student for dealing with the specialized program that depend on the interaction between the students and the teacher.

**Keywords.** online education, covid-19, universities

### **What is known**

There are a lot of universities depend on the online education during the pandemic COVID-19 in Saudia Arabia. Ministry of Education in Saudia encouraged that to protect the students from COVID\_19 infection. All of the courses, it is giving via zoom application, microsoft team, and webinar. Most of doctors and nursing teacher assistant are following these rules to protect the student from COVID\_19.

But there are practical courses that required student available in the lab to make demonstration of the procedure and skills, based on the observation we noticed that in the Saudia Universities, so we can find the alternative method to protect the student from COVID19.

### **What is new?**

The current policy suggests the advantages of the tele-education in the era of COVID\_19 disorder. It is most important for all universities in Saudia. The Ministry of Health in Saudia apply new program for students and people to protect them from this infection such Tawklna application, this application shows if the student suffer from COVID\_19 or contact patient with COVID\_19, this program will automatically confirm this case and make alarm to take precautions, the aim of the current policy is to identify the main advantages of the online education during the COVID\_19.

All of the countries, it is applied the distance education to maintain safety of students because it is priority of the Ministry of Education and Health, in the era of the COVID-19 it is most important to apply the Distance Education.

### **Executive summary**

This Policy brief is a concise summary of real issue, the policy options to deal with it and some recommendations on the best option to a non-specialized audience (Wong, & Green & Bazemore, 2016), it is designed at government policymaker and other who are fascinated in the influencing policy (Wong, & Green & Bazemore, 2016).

COVID-19 is infectious disorders that we can distinct it by the severe acute respiratory syndromes (CDC,2020), according to the CDC (2020) the high risk for death by the COVID-19 are people over 65 years, chronic underlying condition like immune disorder, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and sickle cell disorder.

According to the Ministry of Health in Saudi, In the February 10, 2021 total number of COVID-19 cases in King Saudi Arabia were 371 cases, as the same date, there were 362 deaths and 6,415 thousand recoveries verified in the country.

Because the rapid spread of pandemic COVID-19 in Saudi, the Ministry of Health decided change the teaching method in the universities to the online education. The aim of this step to maintain safety for all student and health awareness during the pandemic of COVID-19.

The aim of this policy is to identify the main advantages of online education in Saudi Arabia for the undergraduate students in the universities and identify the alternative method for the practical courses via distance education.

### **Context and importance of the problem**

Issues of education and teaching in the universities have more significant during the pandemic of COVID-19, so that it is most important to apply the web based computer for protecting of the students from the COVID-19, the aim of this policy is to focus on the online education during the pandemic of the COVID-19 in Saudi, there are little of the studies focused on that so I encouraged all the universities using the online education to prevent the students from the COVID-19 disorder, the education process is most important for all the student in the universities, so we shall use the Electronic Learning via application like ZOOM, Microsoft Team, Webinar.

The findings of the current policy help us to identify the require changes on the priority basis to make it more applied in all universities.

### **Teaching in an Online Learning Context**

According to the Garrison, Anderson, and Archer (2000) created and improved the theoretical model and said that an effective online education depend on three critical component: cognitive presence, social presence, and teaching presence (Garrison, Anderson, Archer, 2000), this model is confirmed and improved through content analysis and support by other evidence (qualitative and quantitative research) in the University of Alberta (<http://www.atl.ualberta.ca/cmc>).

Teaching and learning in an web based computer are much such as teaching and learning in any other formal education context: students' needs are assessed, content is prescribed then we can assess the learning process, the most vital of this context is the ability for shifting the time and place of the educational interaction.

To support the content in many formats like video, multimedia, texts, and these formats help us for communications- rich learning context.

### **Critique of policy option**

During the pandemic spread of COVID-19 we shall apply the safety and protection principles for the undergraduate students, we agree the teaching process is very important, but we must take the precautions during the pandemic spread of the COVID-19, the web-based computer is the most important during the COVID-19, there are a lot of advantages like easy to use in Saudia. The technology is developed in Saudia so all the students, they have IPAD new telephones, and laptops, easy to access in anytime, and internet is available in anytime, the student can record the lecture and resume it in any time, online education are cheaper than other method.

But we verified the Ministry of Health and education in Suadia that it is improving the teaching process and we must use the distance education based on web it is very effective method available during the COVID-19 Infection.

We can generalize the online education for all programs in all universities in Saudia, but some courses that is required student available in laboratory to apply procedure and skills in Nursing field like Fundamentals Nursing, Maternity Health Nursing, Pediatric Health Nursing, and Adult Health Nursing, these courses consist of skills and procedure so the student shall available in the lab to make demonstration in the lab ,In these cases, the distance online is ineffective so we can follow the safety precaution like apply protective personal equipment, educate nursing student make distance between them, install the Tawkalna application from store and turn on if any case suspected of COVID-19, the program make alarm, also on the sign or symptom, measure the temperature for all the student before admitting the University or Colleges.

We will check the students if they are used the applications for teaching method successfully, because there are not knowing how to use applications for teaching and what the type of application that we can use it, and we can check internet available for all students, as well as we shall make training program for all student.

### **Policy recommendations**

The following recommendations are presented in order to identify the advantages and improve the distance education to make adaptation during the pandemic of COVID-19, so we can apply the web-based computer method to:

- Facilitate the teaching method during the COVID-19.
- Keep learning active and continuous process.
- Encourage universities for applying online education.
- Maintain the safety and prevention for all students.
- Provide training for students by using of technologies that students will use in their courses.
- Encourage interaction between students and faculty member.
- Encourage student centered learning and they are easily manageable during the lockdown case.
- Reduce cost and burden on the parents.
- In projects, and seminars. Encourage students to work together
- Expand of knowledge for all Undergraduate students.
- According to these advantages of the online education we shall improve the students abilities to deal with technology by the training programs on these application, this policy must apply it on all programs of the universities in Saudia.

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