THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN NAMIBIA AMIDST COVID 19 CHALLENGES.
OUTLINE

• Status of Covid on the Continent
• Status of Covid in Namibia
• Education in Namibia
• Effect of Covid on Namibian Education
Quick facts: Africa

8.39 million cases continentally

211,853 deaths

South Africa most affected country

*Sources vary on the exact numbers.

Quick Facts: Namibia

- Cases to date 129,041
- Deaths 3,564
- Recovered 125,325
- Fully vaccinated 274,466
THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION
4.0 IR

5.0 IR?

Zoom, Teams and other platforms

Virtual Class

Artificial Intelligence

Smart phones
Education in Namibia

- Home to 3 large higher education institutions:
  - 2 fully publicly funded universities
  - 1 private university

- University of Namibia: 28,000 students
- Namibia University of Science and Technology: 14,000
- International University of Management: 12,000

- All offer degree programmes in various disciplines and in different modes (full and part time)
Education in Namibia

- The future of education in Namibia will require the rapid adoption of ICT.

- Developing countries are at a slight disadvantage with the rollout of education online because of the penetration and sophistication of ICT infrastructure.

- Africa (Namibia alike) holds an advantage of high mobile penetration, the level of sophistication is a challenge: for instance most rural areas are not equipped beyond 3G and therefore makes it difficult for students to participate in online classes and overall learn online.

  - Requires an upgrade of infrastructure and provision of resources.
Education and Technology

- Covid 19 is the catalyst of a speedy adoption of technology in education.
- Education in the post Covid world requires a heavy reliance on technology for delivery and learning:
  1. Education facilities will have to be repurposed for hybrid/blended learning.
  2. Curricula must incorporate the importance of digital and emotional skills (cater for the new world order were students engage virtually- what that will do to development and mental health).
  3. Stakeholder collaboration for ensuring equitable access to education (the marginalized will be disproportionately affected)
The need for large education premises may not be necessary going forward.
Premises that are equipped with all necessary ICT infrastructure to enable lecturers to pre-record lectures and delivery quality content.
2. CURRICULA

- Teaching 4.0/5.0 IR relevant skills - especially pertaining to soft skills.
- Equipping students with digital and social/emotional skills to work with technology emersed fields.
Top 10 skills of 2025

- Analytical thinking and innovation
- Active learning and learning strategies
- Complex problem-solving
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Creativity, originality and initiative
- Leadership and social influence
- Technology use, monitoring and control
- Technology design and programming
- Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
- Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

3. STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

- The collaboration of government, private, public sectors and civil society to ensure students are equipped with laptops and other gadgets to access education material.