

EDITORIAL

E-learning is here to stay for a long time.

JORGE GÓMEZ GÓMEZ

Editor

By the end of 2019, many educational institutions, both in formal and non-formal education, had some online courses in their academic programs. In other cases, several higher education institutions already had undergraduate and graduate academic offerings in this modality. Apparently, the online learning modality (e-learning) was used for people who, due to their occupations, had to study in this way. In fact, many people at that time considered that e-learning was not quality and was not well regarded. However, at the beginning of 2020, things began to change radically around the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced governments to create quarantines for their citizens for health reasons. This implied that all academic activities should be remotely oriented. Obviously the salvation for millions of people in the world was online learning. This tool, which was already used in educational institutions, became the first alternative to mitigate the situation in the academic field. But in practice at the beginning of 2020, the platforms, teachers, students and content were not prepared for the growing demand. This revealed a number of problems associated with modality-related adaptation. Most teachers and students were not used to dealing with this new academic reality. Faced with this panorama, questions arise that are framed in the teaching/learning processes. Among them are the following:

1. Is it possible to have quality education in a virtual learning environment?
2. How well prepared are the platforms used by the institutions to impart knowledge?
3. How committed are the students to their own learning process?
4. How do teachers handle aspects related to student participation and teaching methodology, taking into account the access to computer and communication resources available to a population?
5. What type of assessments should be designed to verify that a student has actually acquired the required competencies?

There may be many more questions, but from this new reality, surely some people may already have answers to these questions. However, in the midst of the problems there are opportunities that are surely already being explored and enhanced. At the end of the day, virtual education will be strengthened and it is very likely that it will remain for a long time.

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Periodicidad: Semestral
Dirección:
Carrera 6 N° 76 - 103
Montería - Colombia
Teléfono:
(4) 7860383 Ext. 300
Telefax 7818018
Dirección electrónica:
revistaiei@correo.unicordoba.edu.co