Policy Implications for Teaching during the Health Emergency

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COVID-19 Emergency Policy Response

- Teaching modality - Immediate shift to Online teaching
- Technological platform - Adoption and mandate for use of G-Suite for Education to support online teaching
- Building Pedagogical Capacity - Training of teachers
- Increased Technological Capacity - Access to devices for teachers, students, connectivity etc
- Improvement in Curriculum Readiness, Content and Instruction
- Configuration of Virtual schools and Classrooms and appropriate protocols
- Implementation of psycho-social, emotional and family support systems
- Development of Monitoring and Evaluation of learning mechanisms
- Enhancement of cyber security, privacy and data protection
National Health Emergency Decisions

- Immediate closure of all public and private educational institutions
- Adoption of strategies to ensure and maintain the continuity of learning especially for the marginalized and most vulnerable students
- Immediate escalation of teacher training to ensure capacity across the school system
- Immediate declaration of policy regarding the Online Platform - G-Suite for Education
- Consolidation of previous two terms work - No new concepts to be introduced
National Health Emergency Decisions

- Provision of access to devices for all students especially the vulnerable
- Provision of access to devices for all teachers
- Technological support for teachers, students and parents
- Use of all avenues for learning, Online, video, radio, Television etc
- Public Relations/communications campaign to get messages and information to teachers, parents and students
Pedagogical Capacity

POLICY
- Mandatory use of Online teaching in Term 3

IMPLICATIONS - Pedagogical Capacity
- Preparedness, number and readiness of teachers across the system with the competence and skills to deliver online teaching

ACTIONS TAKEN
- Immediate training of Information Technology Coordinators across all schools
- Development of a training plan for teachers to build capacity
- Distributed training (ITCs conducted training of staff)
- Changes to instructional design and presentation skills
- Sharing of best teaching practices and collegial collaboration
Pedagogical Capacity

- Online teaching guides and protocols and videos produced
- Consultation with Unions, Principals and Administrators
- Determination of a national strategy and plan for the delivery of online teaching and learning
Technological Capacity

POLICY
- Mandated use of G-Suite for Education as online teaching platform

IMPLICATIONS - Technological Capacity
- Technological availability/accessibility for teachers and students to devices, connectivity etc

ACTIONS TAKEN
- Access to devices for teachers, redeployment where feasible
- Access for students (Prioritize vulnerable) procurement, distribution and contracts
- Preparedness, readiness and capacity of students to use online modality
- Partnerships and corporate support - G-Suite for Education Tech Drive
- Incentives to invest in devices
- Reliable Technical support
- Help desk
Technological Capacity

- Information videos
- Upgrading of Ministry Website
- Communication and PR campaign
- ISPs - Free access to e-learning platforms/internet mobile network, Google classroom, Google Meet, Websites have been zero rated
- 2600 teachers, 35 000 students
Curriculum, Content and Instruction

POLICY
- Ensure the continuity of learning for all students through the use of all available and accessible educational media

IMPLICATIONS
- Adoption and adaptation of existing content and development of new content as necessary

ACTIONS
- Access and distribution of digital texts, e-books
- Use of audio, video, radio, television and online educational resources
- Digitization and dissemination of existing content
- Development of new content as needed
- Use of a dedicated national television channel
- National Cultural Foundation Development Programme
Configuration of Virtual schools and Classrooms

- Nature and structure of the virtual schools and classrooms
- Commencement of the school term (Delayed start), duration (Shortened), format (Online),
- Modified timetabling, adjusted class lesson duration according to age groups,
- Accounting for the attendance of students and teachers
- Duration of classes,
- Limitations on student screen time according to age groups
Psycho-social, emotional and family support

POLICY
- Provision of counselling support through virtual counselling and tele-counselling

IMPLICATIONS
- Stress of Home-based learning vs Home schooling
- Health risks (Mental health)
- Parental technological capacity and support capability

ACTIONS
- Virtual Counselling support and tele-counselling implemented
- Establishment of Hotline and dedicated counselling support email
- Development of Protocols for use by parents/students /Safe use protocols
- Guidelines for home facilities
- Time on tasks and use of technology age specific guidelines/imposition of screen time limits
- Feeding programme for vulnerable students
Monitoring and Evaluation of learning

- Determine effectiveness of strategies deployed
- Level of engagement and participation of teachers, students, parents, administrators (Research required)
- Device acquisition and deployment
- Content adaptation and development
- Ensuring learning takes place
- Measuring learning outcomes - Formative Assessments
- Determining the effectiveness of the online teaching and learning option
- Feedback to students and parents
- School and home learning collaboration
- National standardized online assessment system
- Distance Education requires - high level of Self-directed learning, self discipline, strong study skills
Enhancement of Cyber security, privacy and data protection

- Strengthening cyber security
- Protection of Learners’ rights and privacy
- Ensuring effective data security and protection
- Ensuring familiarity and compliance with the Data Protection Act 2019
Response to COVID-19

- **Policy options** and implications
- **Strategies** to drive pedagogical transition
- **Opportunities** - advances in modern technology
  - Potential **challenges** - mitigation strategies
- **Sustainability** - future development options and opportunities
- **Shift from traditional face-to-face to online learning**;
  - A device for every student and teacher
  - Pedagogical and Technological Capacity
- **G-Suite for Education**
- **Tech Drive; Partnerships**
- **Long term technology enhanced teaching solutions**