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Introduction

Universities in South Africa have used blended learning since the 2015-16 Fees-must-fall protests.

- Some universities in South Africa struggled with blended learning due to limited resources and budgets.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a shift to fully remote online education.

- The digital divide prevalent in South African institutions was highlighted by the pandemic.
- Traditional contact and face-to-face tuition were replaced with online platforms.

Methodology

Microsoft Teams was used for eLearning and found to be convenient for recording and revisiting lectures.

- Recording lectures allowed students to refer back to the material if they did not understand something initially.
- Challenges specific to mathematics included difficulty in writing equations and drawing diagrams during online classes.

Blackboard was used for timed assignments and e-assessment methods.

- Students faced issues with cheating during e-assessments.
- Network problems affected the submission of assessments.
- Formative assessments, such as quizzes and pre-tests, were used to prepare students for summative assessments at the end of the course.

Discussion

The study highlighted the importance of digital transformation in education.

- Online education was found to complement traditional learning methods.
- Both students and instructors needed to adapt to digital tools and methodologies to ensure effective teaching and learning.

The study discussed the future implications of online education.

- There is potential for continued use of online education post-pandemic.
- Digital tools have become integral to modern education, providing flexibility and accessibility.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift to online education, highlighting the importance of digital tools in modern education.

- Online education offered benefits such as accessibility and convenience for students.
- Digital infrastructure investments made during the pandemic should be maintained to prepare for future disruptions.

The future of higher education will likely involve a continued integration of online education and traditional methods.

- Online education and traditional classroom learning should complement each other to create a robust and flexible education system.
- Preparing for potential future disruptions requires maintaining a strong digital infrastructure.