

The Corona Virus (COVID-19), AI and Higher Education: Impacts Over the Past Five (5) Years

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in early 2020, precipitated an unprecedented global health crisis that profoundly impacted all sectors, including higher education. This report analyzes the multifaceted effects of the pandemic on colleges and universities in the United States between April 2020 and April 2025. The findings indicate significant initial disruptions across student enrollment, institutional finances, and pedagogical practices. The rapid shift to online and hybrid learning models presented both opportunities and challenges, impacting student engagement and faculty workload. Furthermore, the pandemic exerted considerable strain on the mental health and well-being of students and faculty. Despite these challenges, higher education institutions demonstrated remarkable resilience and underwent transformative changes that are likely to have long-lasting effects on the sector. A research-based methodology was used for this paper which details the second and third order consequences on the impact of the Corona Virus COVID-19 had in higher education since 2020. The paper explains the short-term goals that higher education addressed in 2020, an assessment of those goals over the past five (5) years, and the second and third order consequences from those goals.

Keywords: COVID-19, higher education, impact, assessment, consequences