

Using W4H E-Learning systems for online training during the Covid 19 pandemic

Background

W4H develop E-learning systems for schools of Nursing and Midwifery in 6 northern states. Technically, there are two types of E-learning server developed by W4H. The first is the local server deployed in all the W4H supported Schools. The second server is the online server that can easily be accessed anywhere anytime, via the internet. According to the design, while the local server is going to provide E-learning service to students via the school's local network at no cost, it cannot be accessed via the internet. All the schools local server are connected to the online server for backup and ease of management.

As a result of Covid-19 pandemic, Government instructed all schools across the country to shut down abruptly, forcing students and teachers to stay at home due to lockdown. To reduce the effect of lockdown to the school calendar, Some W4H supported schools started exploring the possibility of teaching their students remotely. According to them, they tried WhatsApp but wasn't effective. They contacted W4H management on the possibility of using the online E-learning server to teach their students remotely. Others requested for support on how they can create their own online E-learning server

W4H Explore the options of using the online E-learning server

A planning method was organized and in consideration of the local context, three options were reviewed. The options were integrating Zoom into W4H E-learning server, integrating Skype into W4H E-learning server and using W4H E-learning server with no integration.

The project decided to use W4H E-learning server with no integration because the use of Zoom and skype require a higher bandwidth not available in many of the local governments where students reside.

The Solution

Using W4H E-learning server to teach the students involve a teacher uploading content mostly recorded lectures for students to download and listen to, a question and answer session follows after that for students to chat in questions and contributions with respect to the uploaded content. A student can send his/her comment or question via text, audio or video recording for teachers and other students to respond accordingly, these eliminate the need for high bandwidth. A timetable for the question and answer session was created and shared with students to enable them participate in the two hour question and answer session.

Other schools like School of Nursing Katsina and School of Midwifery Malumfashi that were able to secure some funds from the state government were supported to create their own online E-learning server. The support include recommendation on the appropriate online server hosting site, server requirement and support on the installation and configuration of the server itself

The solution was shared with W4H management for review and approval.

Meeting with School Management

After securing the approval, W4H organize a meeting between school management and its consultants to enable the school management review the demo and approve it. The meeting ended with an action plan on next steps as summarized below

1. Capacity building for teachers on how to create and upload online videos will be conducted via the W4H E-learning server. The training will be done remotely using the proposed E-learning solution mentioned above.
2. Technical support will be provided by W4H to schools after the training. The support will cover organizing remote classes with students and monitoring of the question and answer session

Result

Five schools were trained and supported on using W4H online E-learning server to create interactive content and use it in teaching their students during and after the lockdown.

Four schools were supported on how to create their own online E-learning server. This enable them to teach their students remotely.