

# THE DIGITAL TEACHER

Examining the emerging profile of teachers in the post-COVID-19 era

# Outline

Introduction

**The Crisis and Science of COVID-19**

**The Emerging Profile**

The post COVID-19 Transformation



## The Crises of COVID-19

- Consequences
  - Fears
  - Disruptions...
- Positives
  - eLearning
  - Collaborations and New Partnerships
  - Experiencing something new
  - Opportunities for knowledge sharing and convergence.
- Realizations
  - Many more things are possible online
  - Digital education is catching up to, and may surpass traditional classroom education
  - Educational systems needs to transform
    - Relevance of digitization and why universities should invest in it
  - The need for teachers to prepare for the “new normal” in teaching and learning



## The Sciences of COVID-19

- Natural (Bio) Sciences
  - Testing
  - Vaccines
  - Treatments
- Communication Sciences
  - Informing
  - Combating Misinformation
- Social Sciences
  - Supports
  - Counselling
- Teaching Science...
  - A different kind of Science
  - An emerging paradigm
  - Redefine and transform higher education after the COVID-19 crisis



# A different Kind of Science

- The Science of Teaching and Learning
  - trigger a learning revolution and continuous engagement outside of the classroom
- Upskilling in preparation for the changes to come post-COVID-19
  - Skillset assessment
- Demonstrates that there is really “no size fits all”
  - Different institutions have different priorities and the resources that should be used are context-dependent.
  - There are several possible futures for Higher Education
    - dependent on how institutions, teachers and learners respond to coronavirus and its aftermath
- Teacher and Learners well-being
  - Teacher leadership
  - Teacher technology
  - Teacher collaboration

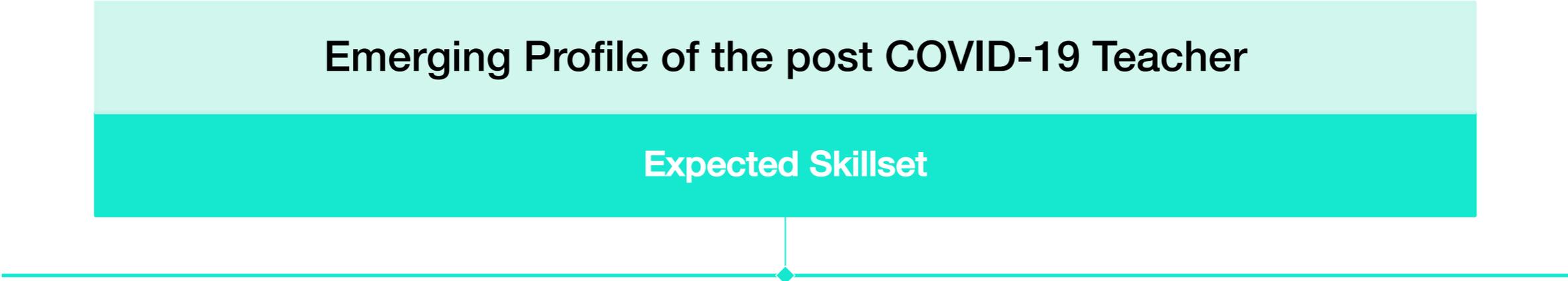


## The New Normal in Teaching and Learning

- Digital Learning is playing a crucial role during this pandemic
- Teachers too are becoming learners (we are all lifelong learners)
  - Lifelong learning and ongoing professional development is paramount
- Traditional Education is no longer 'the first best'
  - The broken myth that digital education is the "free version" or the second-best option of traditional education
  - Online learning is now being acceptable and credible
- These "New Normal" will define the faces of Teaching and Learning in our Institutions post COVID-19

## Emerging Profile of the post COVID-19 Teacher

Expected Skillset





# Expectations

- The Post COVID-19 Teacher
  - Accept that education delivery is evolving
    - Be ready to adapt and communicate the evolution
  - Develop 21st Century Skills through teaching online
  - Continuous Quality Professional Development
  - Be willing to use the Digital learning technologies to manage, plan, deliver and track the learning process
  - Learn new teaching strategies based on the prevailing circumstance
  - Learn a complex mix of skills which need to be constantly refined
  - .....

**“Non-techy” Skills**

**Expected Skillset**

**Technical Skills**

**A mix of skills in-between**



# Communications & Time Management Skills

- Communications Skills
  - We are used to a world of face-to-face communications but now most communications will probably happen online: texting, email and voice-messaging, etc
    - Create a channel(s) of communications
    - Need to need to develop stronger written communication skills
    - Adaptation to the lack of visual cues
    - Master control language, tone, and style to ensure learners can hear
    - Concise and clear instructions in emails and online messaging –no opportunities for repetition
    - An online learning environment requires clear, concise instruction. Educators experienced in face-to-face classroom instruction methods may
- Time Management Skills
  - Time management for both teacher and learners is essential
  - The consciousness of time during online delivery is key
  - Scheduling time is essential
  - Course feedback should be provided to students as soon as possible



# Patience, Compassion and Empathy

- Patience
  - Specially required for STEM fields
  - With students, colleagues, management, ...
  - Realize that this is new (and frustrating?) to almost everyone
    - Different response rates, answers are not instant, problems are not always fixable immediately...
    - Learning to be patient as part of the process.
- Compassion and Empathy
  - Many students have been affected by the pandemic in one way or another
  - Learn to show compassion and give them a break deadlines are missed
  - Be willing to listen and provide psychological support –identify when there is a need to and recommend mental health and psychosocial support



## Technical Skills and Tools

- Several and evolving tools
  - Teachers need to work with their institutional administrators
- Digital Learning Management Systems: Moodle, Google Classroom, Docebo, Blackboard, Edmodo, Skooler, Ekstep, Cell-Ed, LabXchange, Quizlet, etc

Refer to a more comprehensive list published by UNESCO

<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/solutions>

- Communication Tools: Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Google Hangout, Meet, Dingtalk, etc
- MOOCs: Canvas, Alison, Coursera, EdX, Future Learn, Funzi, Empower,
- Some institutions with the capacity have developed their own tools
  - Institutional-based LMS and Online Teaching Support system



# Technological Literacy

- In addition to learning to use different tools and technologies for digital teaching:
  - Full knowledge of accessibility requirements for technology in the classroom and online instruction.
  - Ability to evaluate Internet resources.
  - Understanding aspects of copyright privileges and violations.
  - Modeling and monitoring proper etiquette and generally accepted online use policies.
  - Designing and implementing appropriate lesson plans for online students.
  - Ability to troubleshoot minor technical issues and refer to technical support personnel when necessary
  - Adapting to the evolutionary changes in tools order to meet the needs of learners
  - Collaborative Teaching and Learning Tools
  - Online Content creating tools
  - Assessment and evaluation skills



# Some final thoughts

Amid the fears and anxieties...

- Universities all over the world have survived worse situations
- Another opportunity to realize that universities are unique and will continue to evolve
- University Administrations will need to:
  - re-think mission and values and how to realize them in the 'unconventional' teaching and learning environments
  - What kind of higher education institutions do we want after this pandemic?
    - Universities are no longer going to be defined by the physical architectural edifice
    - A paradigm shift in how they communicate and operate to meet the evolving needs of students and staff
- Post COVID-19, the Digital Teacher
  - Evaluate own readiness as an online educator
  - Facilitate and Teach Online Courses
  - Communicate effectively to promote online learning
  - Identify and use appropriate tools for online learning
  - Carry out effective online assessment
  - Provide effective online feedback
  - Effectively monitor and support learner progress

THANK YOU