DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLGY
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Enriching Our Curriculum in Higher Education Through Internationalization

Internationalization in higher education can be defined as "the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of postsecondary education" - Knight (2008).

On 20th to 24th July, 2020, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) together with the Kenya DAAD Scholars Association (KDSA), DeKUT Chapter, hosted a Virtual Workshop on "Management of Internationalization for Young Academic and Administrative Staff" to ponder on the subject of internationalization in higher education. The workshop was attended by over fifty participants from 19 universities across the country (Kenya) and East Africa; this, coupled with facilitators with rich knowledge and experience in the areas of internationalization, collaboration and linkages building provided a unique opportunity to share knowledge, experiences, and challenges cutting across East Africa and beyond.

As Steve Jobs observed, great things are not done by one person but a team of people. For five days, a team of people came together to discuss matters around internationalization strategies, internationalization office structures and tasks, intercultural

communication, conflict management, internationalization of research and curriculum, competencies and key tasks of an international office, establishing and maintaining international collaborations and linkages and views on the internationalization process. These discussions gave way to the general observation and recommendation that there is need to embrace and incorporate internationalization frameworks into the curriculum in our institutions of learning.

In her closing remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs & Research at DeKUT, Prof. Esther N. Magiri, commended the attendees and all the facilitators and sponsors of the workshop and indicated that as institutions strive to grow global linkages in their internationalization efforts, there is need to start from home; this was in iteration of the sentiments of most of the attendees. She emphasized on the need to start by local interactions across the country and East Africa adding that in so doing, institutions shall form a strong base home and regionally as we venture into the global arena.

DeKUT Ventures into Processing and Blending its own Coffee Parchment



Quality Education, Research, and Technology Transfer is a core value at DeKUT. Recently, the university ventured into processing and blending its own coffee parchment under the Institute of Food and Bio resources Technology. Parchment, considered to be of lower quality is used to produce the coffee flavored yoghurts. This journey began 10 years ago when the University set up a coffee quality laboratory that also provides consultancy services to farmers on quality management and analyzing the quality of coffee produced in the country. With less concentration on caffeine present in the coffee, the university seeks to promote the products health benefits. We are also promoting coffee as an antioxidant whose properties are equivalent to Vitamin C; meaning it is a healthy beverage.

We have over 300 acres under coffee mainly SL 28 Batian and Ruiru 11 with an optimum production of 250 tonnes annually. Coffee processing starts in the farm by harvesting the red ripe cherry because it is easier to pulp and has a higher concentration of sugar and mucilage which are the key attributes of a good coffee. The red ripe berries undergo pulping and fermentation which is done using the wet method. They are exposed to water before they can be graded using a method called density grading. After fermentation, the beans are dried to lower their moisture content from 55% to about 10%. The coffee beans are spread under the

sun for approximately two weeks to stabilize and ensure that they are not affected by any micro-organisms.

The University does medium and dark roasting of its coffee and so far we have seven grades of coffee. Most people prefer the medium roasted coffee because it captures all the attributes of coffee; acidity, sweetness and the pleasant aftertaste as compared to the dark roasted coffee. Through this coffee, we manufacture the coffee flavored yoghurts which are sold at our DeKUT Enterprises. - Story appeared on the Daily Nation , Tuesday 28th 2020.

Embracing change during this COVID-19 pandemic



The ongoing pandemic has changed much of our daily lives, and the education sector was not exempted. In light of the rising concerns about the spread of COVID-19 and calls to contain the virus, a growing number of tertiary institutions were shut down.

At DeKUT, we have ensured to keep our promise to students on early admission and timely completion of studies through virtual learning. In line with that, our first year students were also oriented online.The University has a Center for Open, Distance, and elearning (CODeL) that uses blended learning as a method of teaching. The key objective of CODeL has been to facilitate teaching through online platforms where the Learning Management Systems (LMS) provides lecture notes and learning materials to students. We also support real time lectures where lecturers stream classes to students remotely.

Stimulus Package Mashinani Program

In line with the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage to spearhead the work for pay program, we hosted the Stimulus Package Mashinani by Kenya Cultural Centre incorporating the Kenya National Theatre. The Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage launched the “Work for Pay” Kshs.100 million stimulus packages for artistes, actors and musicians and this was in line with the presidents directive on 6th April 2020.

The Work for Pay is aimed at supplementing government's efforts in combating COVID-19 and its effects by engaging and mobilizing the cultural and creative artists in strategic messaging on behavior change. This is to help flatten coronavirus transmission curve including, but not limited to social distancing, hand washing and wearing personal protective equipment's such as masks.



COVID -19 & Spirituality



Corona virus has now spread in the whole world and has been declared a global pandemic due to the bizarrely speed in which the virus is spreading (WHO, 2020). The virus is dynamically spreading and has greatly created social disruption and economic loss. An increasing number of people are dying daily. The elderly and the young children have been affected more in the general population and in such times of crisis, human beings seek religion to offer comfort and answers. This is because spirituality is important in health care as it gives people stability and meaning. Although religion has being impacted negatively through cancellation of worship services and pilgrimages surrounding observances, religious leaders have endeavored to reach all faithful

for spiritual nourishment.

Religion has proven to be relevant and the reality is that religion and science when combined complement one another. In our country Kenya, the religious and faith based institutions have reinforced public health messages during the current pandemic. Religious authorities are well-positioned and have been able to respond and communicate information and teachings to their communities during this time crisis. Spiritual and practical support is being given from the churches, temples mosques, and other places of worship. The religious teachings have encouraged the faithful to be kind and supportive to the other less privileged people in the community. Many of the Religious organizations are providing resources to help the community, especially the most vulnerable. Some organizations are working hand in hand with the government to ensure that children and the elderly have access to proper nutrition, healthcare and necessary medication. Read more here; https://covid-19.dkut.ac.ke/

Engaging Children in Creative Arts during this COVID-19 pandemic

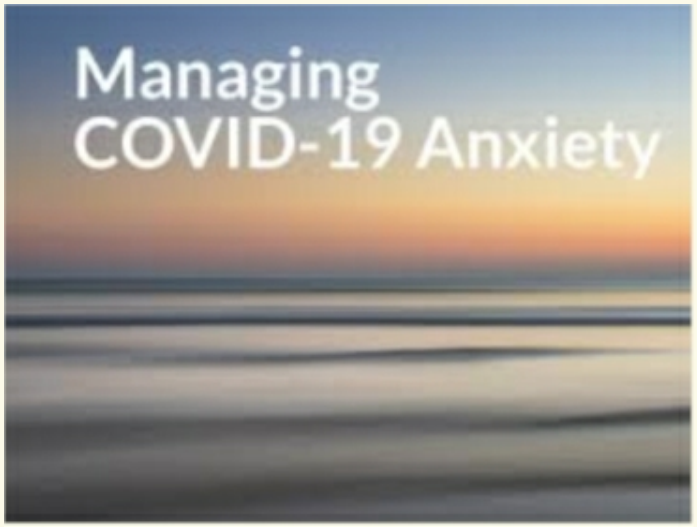


Do you love dancing, singing, playing an instrument perhaps, drawing? How about painting or knitting! According to Extension, an innovation Centre for young adults, the creative arts, including music, can help children grow physically, socially, cognitively and emotionally. How confident is your child, are they able to engage in conversations and clearly express themselves? The creative arts interestingly can reflect children's deep emotions and feelings as opposed to being silent. A small singing session or painting activities can change a child's gloomy mood to a happy one.

With the current state of less movement, social distancing, and online classes as the new normal, a child's brain could easily get bored from the same routine engagement. How then can they be kept motivated through these unforeseen circumstances? First, it is important to break their usual predictable schedules by engaging them in the process of creative thinking. Have them play a guitar, a recorder, a piano , a flute , percussion instruments, allow them to sing, drum their way through the usual routine. Those who cannot play instruments allow them to draw, paint, recite a poem and perform a skit that would eventually jog their mind creatively and innovatively.

These creative activities focus more on the process than the end products. It will teach children how to be patient a virtue they certainly need to inculcate at such a time. Engaging in creative activities is in itself a learning process too as earlier indicated and thus still keeps the child in school, informally. Gwendolyn Rice (April 2020), reiterates the significance of creative arts now as being as important as ever. Susan Cook a Director of UW-Madison's Mead Witter School of Music, emphasizes that engaging with the arts provides solace, awakens curiosity and allows us to be in the moments with our thoughts and feelings, an important process and experience that our children currently need. To read more on The Psychological effects of Music in Stress Reduction and Management click on the link below;
https://covid-19.dkut.ac.ke/

Managing fear and anxiety during COVID-19 pandemic



Globally, the coronavirus pandemic has raised fear and anxiety levels considerably. It is normal to be anxious and fearful during the pandemic. Many people are fearful for their health and the well-being of the most vulnerable members of the society. The vulnerable members include those who are under 13 years and over 58 years of age, and those with severe medical conditions. Individuals who work in low-paying jobs, and positions that do not provide sick leave or allow space for social distancing are also vulnerable.

The impact of the virus has been severe in some countries where many of us have close relatives and friends. In addition to anxiety about the spreading of the disease, there are negative financial repercussions of having to take time off of work as a result of the scaling down due to the pandemic. Some people have lost their jobs and fear the worst that could happen which is a global recession. In an attempt to curb the spread of the virus, experts advise people to practice social distancing and to isolate themselves thereby reducing intimate person to person contact. These practices are essential from a public health perspective, yet they can have a negative psychological impact. Social isolation whether in the homes or under quarantine conditions can trigger feelings of boredom, loneliness, anger, depression, and even suicidal ideation. These measures may lead to increased tension in

homes, thus exacerbating the cases of domestic violence. Learn how to promote the holistic wellbeing of an individual here; https://covid-19.dkut.ac.ke/

Effects of COVID-19 on families



Over the last few months, adverse effects of COVID-19 have been experienced globally. With countries and cities getting into lockdowns and lives pulled into a standstill, Corona virus (COVID-19) has made communities stay away from each other for survival. It's easy to lose hope and brood over the negative side effects of any event, especially when as a community we're battling a global pandemic. It is important to know that a crisis is a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, but is also a time when new options become possible.

There is already evidence emerging that although the COVID-19 pandemic will affect us all, it will affect us in markedly different ways. Families with dependent children are likely to be adversely affected by the financial, emotional and physical implications of the pandemic and resultant lockdown. This is especially acute for families living in poverty. There are, and will continue to be, clear effects of the COVID-19 on children's education, social life and physical and mental health. For children in key development stages, such as the very young and those in adolescence, disruption of many months will have a larger impact on social Development. Across much of the world, schools are closed and families are largely restricted to their homes. The associated uncertainty and anxiety is a real concern, with disruptions to children's education as well as to their time with friends for exploration and play. Families are struggling with the additional costs of raising children during the pandemic, most notably resulting from schools closure and the subsequent loss of financial and social support. Families who were already living in poverty before the pandemic may now be struggling even more, whether because of the additional costs of having the whole family at home, all day, every day, or because of income shocks caused by the scaled down or total loss of paid employment. Some families will be pushed into poverty as a result of the pandemic – perhaps for the first time – who will face new struggles that they may not have had to tackle previously. To learn more on the coping mechanisms read below;
https://covid-19.dkut.ac.ke/

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