



MICHIGAN MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# Effect of COVID-19-related Disruption on Medical Education in Africa

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## Impact Question

How did COVID-19 pandemic-related changes to the medical education, impact medical education across Africa?

## METHODS

- Participants: Medical Students in Africa
- Surveys were sent through social media platforms via representatives across 35 different African countries.
- Inquired about:
  - Timeline of educational disruption.
  - Disruption, Resumption and format changes to medical education.
  - Perspective of support, learning environment, and mental health.

## Suspension and Resumption of Education:

87.9%

Classes Suspended.

64.1%

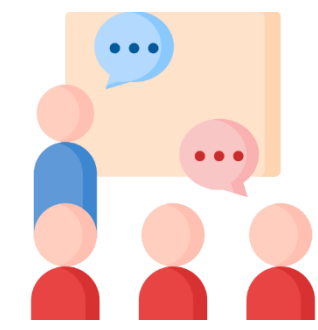
Classes Resumed

(by 10/5/2020)

## Results.

N= 694

### Format of resumed classes:



In-person  
18.1%



Online  
65.3%



Hybrid  
16.6%

### Effect on Mental Health

By Length of Disruption

1= extremely positively affected 5= extremely negatively affected



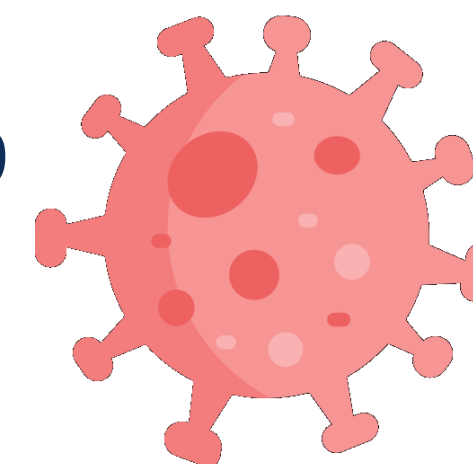
<60 Days 3.1

60-180 Days 3.3

>180 Days 3.4

### Supportive Learning Environment

Prior to Covid-19  
83.7%



After COVID-19 began  
20%

Determined exempt by institutional IRB

Images: Flaticon.com

**Q: Please share any additional comments regarding information covered in this survey**

Basically this was a terrible time for Medical students especially clinical year students from my school, the uncertainty, the dormancy and just the when is this going to over was really taking a toll on my mental health.

Education curriculum format should go in hand with technological accessibility since most of students and universities could not use the online system due to network barriers in some localities where students come from.

The response towards the pandemic didn't seem to necessarily help the students get through it as it seemed school authorities were indifferent to the challenges that student faced as a result of the pandemic.

## DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

**Majority of medical students in Africa had their education disrupted due to COVID- 19 with many not resuming months into the pandemic with many downstream detrimental effects.. This study highlights the need for flexible and innovative approaches to continuing medical education in Africa and demonstrates a concerning disruption that has the potential to impact medical care across the continent in the coming years**

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