

I Am Here To Stay

Abeer Ali Okaz

Pharos University in Alexandria, International House Cairo, Egypt

Abstract

During remote teaching, my teachers felt outside their comfort zone and sought continuous support and empathy. Students too were lost and felt they could not learn language remotely. As a result, they rarely attended classes and even when they attended, they were not participating fully. Managing, planning and teaching at higher Ed. is quite different from schools. Thus as a team, we have tried several scenarios to adapt to the current situation. Now, and after almost a year and a half now, it seems going back 100% to f2f teaching will not be happening soon. Blended learning is here to stay. For these reasons, we felt it is time to rethink how we: communicate together, teach, engage with students, and evaluate teaching and learning. This presentation will briefly highlight the challenges we faced but will mainly focus on the strategies and approaches used to help sustain the rapid changes in higher Ed and steer the wheel towards more engagement, creativity and inclusion.

Keywords: challenges; creativity; engagement; higher education; rethink