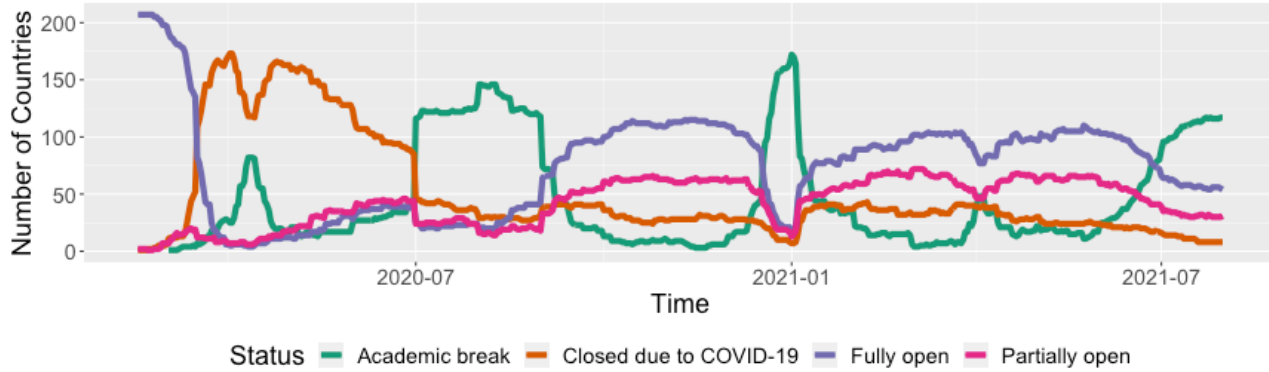# Attention Towards Distance Education Tools During COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Google Trends

Priyanga Dilini Talagala and Thiyanga S. Talagala

OWSD members' responses to COVID 19

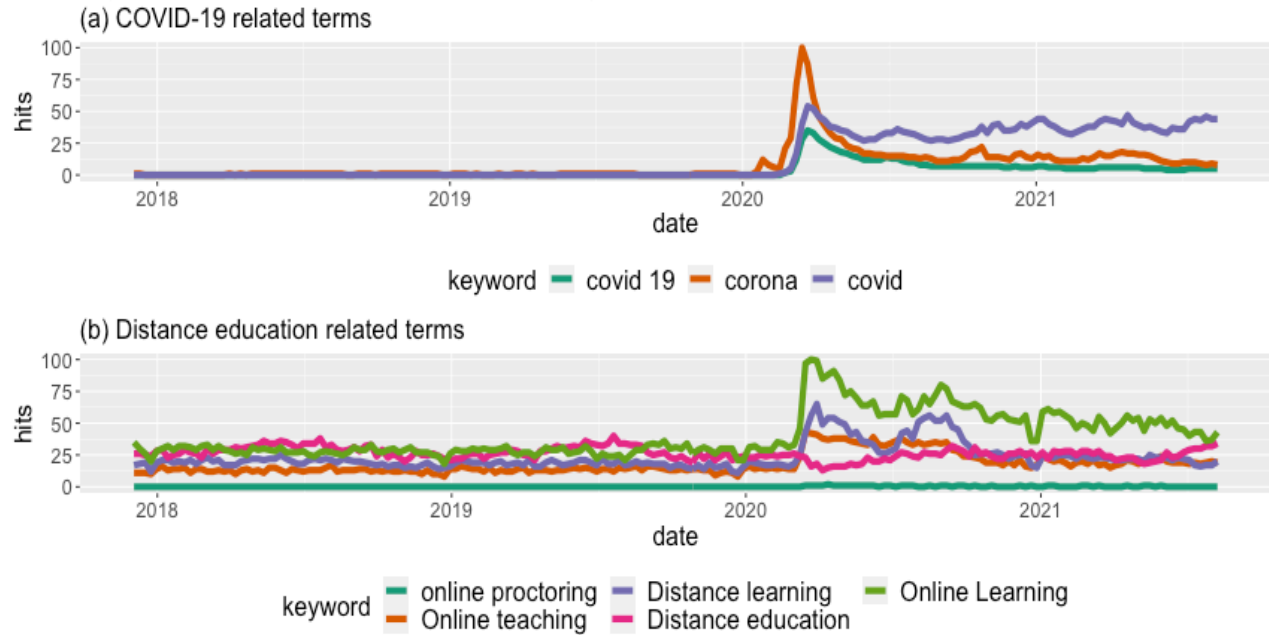COVID 19 has upended the education system with a near-total closures of schools all around the world (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Global tracking of COVID-19 caused school closures and re-openings

However, COVID 19 has made a new era of "Distance Education".

Despite the long history of distance education, its search spikes coincide with increasing COVID-19 related internet searches (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Visualization of data from Google search trends

There are many different distance learning solutions.

Which solutions have a wide attention?

Check out the Google Trends footprint analysis in Figure 3. This can be used as a proxy for measuring worldwide attention towards different distance learning solutions.
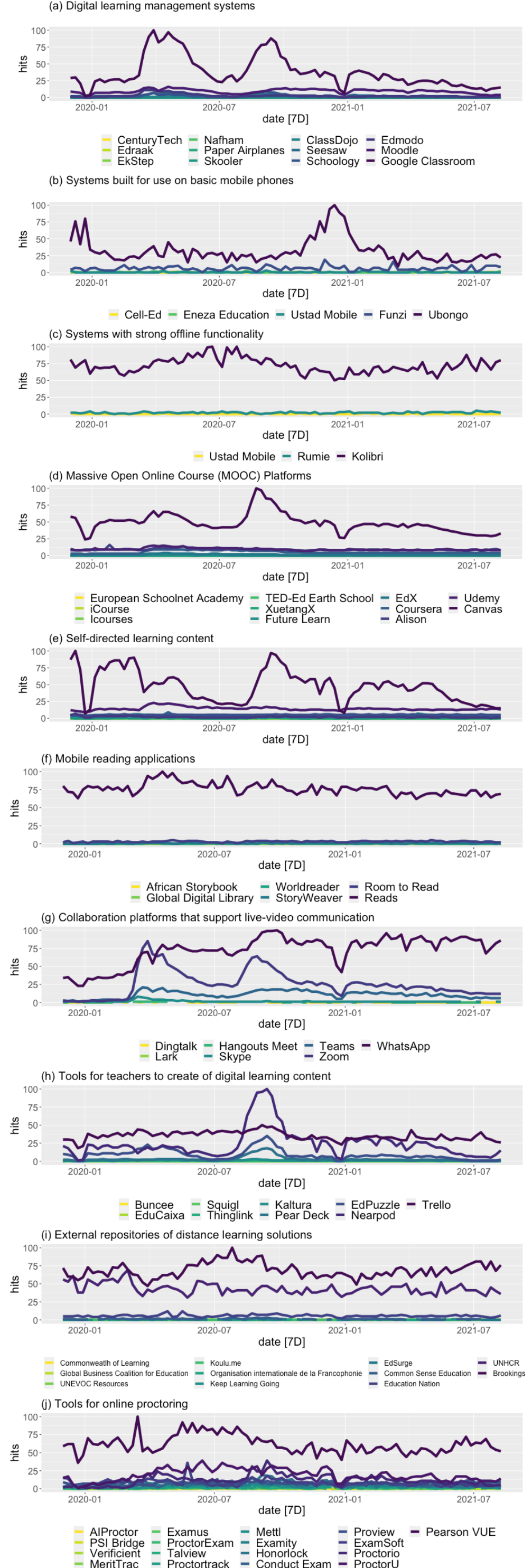
High popularity can indicate its prominence in the market.

Developers also tend to improve their products and services in response to increasing attention.

What next?

What measures can be used at **national level** to ensure the quality of distance education?

Figure 3. Google search trends of distance learning solutions

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