FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2ND SEMESTER 2020

ASSIGNMENT 1 & 2

Disaster Risk Management
(DRM712S)
Dear Student,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for submitting your first assignment for Disaster Risk Management in the second semester of 2020. I know 2020 has not been an easy year to all of us. However, what matter is the fact that we are still here and able to complete our assignments and studies. Let us be grateful for this opportunity and let us not waist it.

The purpose of this feedback tutorial letter is to give you general feedback on the outcome of marking of your assignments. Hence, this feedback tutorial letter will provide feedback on what was expected of you. I have given in text comments as well as voice comments in your respective assignments. Some of the comments encouraged you where you have done well, and others are provided insights on your shortfalls. Please read and understand these comments and if you do not understand, do not hesitate to contact me. The comments I made are meant to help you in your academic journey and to ensure that you learn and at the same time pass this course and eventually graduate.

I’m going to reiterate that for you to pass this course, you need to be fully committed and work hard. You need to read and understand the question and search for the information needed to answer the question.

Gather all the relevant information that you need in completing your assignment. In writing your assignment, it is important that you acknowledge all sources you used. Further, it is vital that you paraphrase (read and understand and use your own words) instead of copying and pasting. This is plagiarism. Please ensure that you need to edit and proofread your assignment before submission to ensure that you have answered the question asked and that there are very few mistakes.

NB: Please note that your assignment is submitted through Turnitin where you need to have a maximum of 25% similarity. Turnitin is a plagiarism detecting device and it will show you the percentage of similarity with other sources.
Assignment 1 question

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations members states in 2015 as the world development agenda to be reached by 2030. It has been over 5 years now but, there are several challenges that seems to hinder the performance of the SDGs. Each SDG have targets that should be reached by 2030. The focus of this question is on SDG 8.

a) Target 8.2:
Achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors.

b) Target 8.3
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services

c) Target 8.5
By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

d) Target 8.6
By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

e) Target 8.8
Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment

In relation to Namibia, analyse how the above targets are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, establish measures that can be put in place to ensure that the country is still on track towards reaching these targets.
First and foremost, you need to ensure that you understand the question and what is required from you. You were required to analyse how the targets mentioned are affected or impacted by COVID-19. At the same time, you needed to suggest measures that can be implemented to ensure that the country will move towards achieving the SDGs.

Firstly, analyse how each target is affected by COVID. Let’s look at target 8.2

**Target 8.2:**

**Achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors.**

It was not possible for higher level of productivity to be achieved due to the COVID-19 regulations and lock down. Companies not providing or producing essential goods and services had to close and this affected their productivity negatively. Only companies that were providing essential goods and services were opening during the lock down. Of course, this has an impact on the economy and the achievement of SDGs.

Diversification was also not fully done or possible. However, some companies started to make masks and produce sanitisers. Hence, one can conclude that these companies have diversified. Instead of waiting for the COVID-19 regulations and lockdown to end, they then decided to manufacture masks and produce sanitisers which were essential items. The article published in the New Era of 27 March 2020 titled “UNAM formulates locally made sanitisers” reported that the University of Namibia has formulated a locally hand sanitisers for its staff. In addition, the Ministry of Trade and Industrialisation established an initiative that gave textile materials to SMES to produce face masks. This is as per the article in the New Era by (Muyamba) dated 27 April 2020 titled “SMEs to sew face masks”. This initiative was created with the purpose of empowering local SMEs. Such initiatives will enable the country to innovate, add value and at the same time create employment.

One challenge inhibiting diversification and higher level of productivity is the borders closure. It is well known fact that no country is independent, all countries are dependent on others and because of the Corona virus pandemic, countries borders are closed. Though Namibia and some African countries are cautiously opening, business is moving slowly because of the second wave in Europe and America.
Target 8.3
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services

This goal was the worst affected because the current focus is on responding and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds meant for developmental projects are diverted to the Ministry of Health and Social Services to buy needed goods (testing kits, equipment to treat Corona virus patients and upgrading medical facilities). For example, the government spent 8.1 billion as COVID_19 stimulus relief. This amount is meant to relieve the economy from the impact of COVID-19. This amount was budgeted for something else but is now being used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As stated above, some SMEs started venturing in the productions of masks, sanitisers as well disinfectants. From this angle, one can say that some business owners were trying to be creative to do what they can during this difficult time. The Ministry of Trade and Industrialisation joined force with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and introduced the Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility. The goal of this Facility is to provide financial and capacity to SMEs, mostly those owned by women and the youth. The facility aims to address development challenges “by strengthening the local economy, improving livelihoods, creating decent jobs, and equitable communities”.

The facility has three objectives, one being to “create a conducive entrepreneurial ecosystem”. This facility has the potential to enable Target 8.3 to be achieved. The facility hopes to create a conducive environment for entrepreneurs to flourish. In addition, this facility will promote and encourage the productive capacity of micro, small and medium sized enterprises similar to what Target 3 entails.

Target 8.5
By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
During the COVID-19 lockdown, many people lost their jobs. Most of these people are women and young people. Given that during the lock down, companies were making a loss, this led to many companies, especially in the tourism sector to close down. As a result, these companies were forced to retrench their workers because they cannot pay them. About 60 employees at Hilton Hotel lost their jobs. In the same line, people in the informal sectors such kapana sellers or fruits and vegetables hawkers, could not sell and therefore could not get an income. Moreover, bar attendants, did not work and therefore they were not paid because there was no money, bar owners were not making any money because alcohol could not be sold during the lock down. Some bar attendants permanently lost their jobs even after the lock down was lifted.

Target 8.6

By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Given that this target was supposed to be achieved this year, it has not been achieved and will not be achieved. Unemployment in Namibia is so high and is even very high among the youth. The latest Labour Force Survey in Namibia established that, youth unemployment is high at %. There are also young people that have passed their Grade 12 but they are not at institution of higher learning due to financial reasons. Most people who lost their jobs due to the lock down are youths. Therefore, there is no way this target can be achieved.

Target 8.8

Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Labour rights could not be protected in 2020 as many people were being retrenched because their companies could not pay them. Even if the government instructed companies not to retrench, companies were left with no choice but to retrench as they could not pay their employees neither were, they able to give them tasks to perform during the lock down because there were no customers. The government was even taken to court because of this regulation and the court stated that the government cannot force employers to keep workers that they cannot pay.
Measures

Below are some of the measures that Namibia can put in place to ensure that it remains on track in achieving these targets:

The government should introduce more programmes to help business owners who are struggling. Individuals, business owners and the government should embrace the change brought about by COVID-19. For example, working online or from home was not that popular in Namibia before COVID-19. If employees can work from home or online, let this be the way forward. This has the potential to increase productivity given the reduction in overhead costs such as water usage and electricity for companies. At the individual level, people will save money on transport cost and the national level, pollution will also likely to decrease. This will also help with the achievement of other SDGs.

More projects or programmes such as the Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility need to be established to ensure that Namibia as a country can achieve the SDGs by 2030 regardless of the challenges the country and the world is encountering.

According to the survey done by Deloitte (April 2020), the majority of the organisations surveyed indicated that they were not prepared for COVID-19 and did not even have policies to cater for extreme events like COVID-19. However, more than 60% indicated that they are busy reviewing their policies for such disasters in future. Organisations should prepare for such extreme events in future, even by taking out insurance covers. This will help the country at large because there won’t be a need for the government to bail out institutions. Instead, these institutions can even render a helping hand to the government because they are resilient.

Institutions also need to embrace technology. This can even reduce cost and at the same time enhance productivity and finally lead to the achievement of the 17 SDGs.

This is more or less what I expected from you

Issues that came up during the marking of your assignment

- I have noticed that some students don’t read and understand the question asked. This is very sad and disappointing. You don’t even read the instructions in the tutorial letter to understand what is expected from you. The tutorial letter is an important document and you should read it from the first page to the last page. If you don’t read the tutorial letter you will not know what is expected from you. You
don’t just jump to the assignment questions, please try to read and understand the information contained in the tutorial letter.

➢ I believe you know that you must acknowledge your sources as truthfully and honestly as possible. You only have to acknowledge sources you have used in compiling your assignment. You at least need six relevant sources. Some of you indicated sources that you have not even used or read but you copied them from a source that you read. This is academic dishonesty and is regarded as misconduct under the NUST Rules and Regulations. Please refrain from doing this. You cannot do this, please read your own sources and acknowledge them accordingly as per the APA referencing style prescribed by NUST.

➢ You also need to edit and proofread your assignment to ensure that there are few spelling and grammatical errors.

➢ Ensure that your sentences and paragraphs are organised and structured in a coherent manner.

➢ Finally, check your similarity index, it should not be more than 25%.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Ms. M. Shakela
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Dear Student,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for submitting your final assignment for Disaster Risk Management. It is such a relaxing feeling to know that we done. I believe you got all your marks. Congratulations to those who made it and good luck for those that are going to write the supplementary test. I know 2020 has not been an easy year for all of us, but the fact that we made it to 2021, worth celebrating.

This tutorial letter aims to give you general feedback on the outcome of marking your second assignment. Hence, the purpose of this tutorial letter is to discuss important matters arising from marking your assignment. I have given in text comments as well as a voice comment in your assignment. Some of the comments encouraged you where you have done well, and others have given insights on your shortfalls. Please read and ensure that you understand these comments; and if you do not understand, do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, these comments are meant to help you in your academic journey and to ensure that you learn and at the same time pass this course and eventually graduate.

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Let’s now look at the assignment question.

 Assignment 2 question

The United Nations member states committed to establish Sustainable Development Goals for global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change and others. The year 2020 has however not started on a good note due to the COVID-19 pandemic which started in Wuhan City, China in 2019 and has since spread to all nations in the world. In Namibia, the first two positive COVID-19 cases were reported on 14th March 2020. Subsequently, the first lock down of the country (Stage 1) started on the 27th March for the two regions were cases of Corona have been reported namely: Khomas and Erongo. The country’s borders were also closed; only Namibian nationals or permanent residents were allowed in the country and those that are bringing in essential goods and services. This first lock down was extended to 4th May 2020. From 5th May to 1 June 2020 the country moved to Stage 2 which is better than Stage 1. From 2nd - 28th June the whole country moved to Stage 3 with the exception of Walvis Bay Local Authority Area. From the 29th June to 17 September the country moved to Stage 4. However, this stage did not last, and the country was moved back to Stage 3 on the 13th August 2020 after significant increases in cases of COVID-19 especially in Windhoek were recorded. The new Stage 3 is to last until 29 August 2020. However, towns such as Arandis, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Okahandja, Rehoboth and Windhoek had their separate regulations because it was observed that many cases are reported from these towns. From 30 August to 12 September the country remained in Stage 3 but there were separate regulations for Windhoek, Rehoboth and Okahandja.

Given all the regulations and lock down brought about by COVID-19, conduct an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 regulations and lockdown on the agricultural sector in Namibia and suggest recovery measures to ensure that the agricultural sector contribute to the growth and development of our country, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In your analysis, select one Namibia region or town as your case study.

First and foremost, you needed to ensure that you understand the question and what is required from you. The question was asking about the impact of COVID-19 regulations and lock down on the Namibian agricultural sector. So, you needed to conduct an analysis and investigate how the agricultural sector is affected by the regulations and the lock down brought about by COVID-19. Your discussion was however, supposed to be based on one
Namibian region or town as your case study. You could have looked at one or several sectors in the agricultural sector in that particular region or town. For example, the diary sector, poultry, livestock and meat industry, crop farming as well as horticulture (fresh fruits and vegetables).

Additionally, you needed to suggest or recommend recovery measures to ensure that the agricultural sector continue to contribute to the growth and development of our country regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Some of the impact of COVID-19 regulations and lockdown are as follows:**

1. **Ban on domestic and international travel**
   
   The ban made it hard for goods to be imported and exported. The agricultural sector imports raw materials from outside the country and with the state of emergency regulations, it is difficult to get all the raw materials needed. The closure of non-essential shops and services (including restaurants and hotels) means farmers cannot sell or export all their supplies. For example, Namibia export meat and grapes to several countries around the world. This is made difficult by the COVID-19 situation.

2. **Loss of revenue as a result of spoiled goods**
   
   Some of the goods, especially perishable ones got rotten, and this is a loss to farmers or owners. The informal sector, especially hawkers who use to sell produces such as tomatoes, onions and potatoes are also affected given that they were not allowed to sell. This effect is extended to the farmers because they did not have customers, as their customers are hawkers who use to sell in the streets.

3. **Loss of jobs (unemployment)**
   
   Many people have lost their jobs due to the lockdown. Restaurants and hotels retrenched workers because they could not pay them as they were not operating. During the lockdown, people’s movements were restricted, and they were only allowed to move in search for essential services or goods as provided for in the COVID-19 regulations. Additionally, restaurants and hotels are not essential services, hence, they were prohibited from opening. Hotels and restaurants buy their supply from the agricultural sector and due to the lock down, they could not buy given that
there were not opening. This led to loss of an income and by extension loss of employment.

There are several impacts, these are just a few of them. You should have thoroughly investigated the issue and give practical examples from the Namibian agricultural sector. You should have made use of newspaper or journal articles or any other source.

**Recovery measures to ensure that the agricultural sector continue to contribute to the growth and development of our country despite the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Some of the measures that could be implemented are as follows:

1. **Diversification**
   Farmers need to start diversifying not to focus only on one area. For example, if you are a cattle farmer, you can add a bit of crop or even small livestock such as sheep and goat. When cattle farming is not going well, then you can get some income from other areas.

2. **The government need to fully utilise the green schemes to ensure that the country is food secure and not dependent on other countries. Furthermore, the government should ensure that the local fresh produces are well marketed and sold in all our local shops. Currently we are relying too much on South Africa for many of our necessities especially food supply. This need to be done away with.**

3. **Agricultural businesses that are export oriented, need to explore the local market and see what is it that they can produce for the local market while the COVID-19 situation is improving. Just like what is happening in the tourism industry, lowering of their rates in order to encourage local people to visit their establishments.**

4. **The government can also provide training to our farmers on how to survive COVID-19.**

These are just some of the measures, students could have identified.
Sources you could have used:

1. Impact of COVID-19 on Namibia’s agricultural industry available on AgriObit
2. Food and Agriculture Organisation (Namibia)’s website
3. Namibia’s agriculture face uncertainties post COVID-19: expert available on Xinhua

Again, there are several sources out there, the above-mentioned are just few of them.

This is more or less what I expected from you.

Hope you managed to get 50% from all your three assessments. If you did not get the 50% to pass this course, there will be a supplementary test, hopefully on the 1st or 2nd of February 2021. The exact date and time will be communicated to you in due course.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All the best of luck. Thank you.

Yours sincerely
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