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1918 · 2018

*forward together · saam vorentoe · masiye phambili*

# Transformative Social Impact amidst Covid19

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Vice-Rector: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel

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**Intensification of existing concerns**

**Intensification of economic concerns**

**Intensification of social concerns**

**Intensification of need for virtuous citizenship and leadership**

**Intensification of need for value-driven citizenship**

**Intensification of vocation as universities**

## Covid-19 – Intensification of existing concerns



- Threefold Exaggeration:
  - Abnormality
  - Incompleteness
  - Finitude and death
- Steer ship between under-estimation and over-estimation
- Even if the world would end tomorrow, today I will plant trees
- From old abnormal to new abnormal (to intensification of abnormal)

- Social Impact
- **Social:**
  - All walks of life – political; life; economic life; ecological life; civil society; public discourse and public opinion-formation; (personal and public; local and global)
- **Impact:**
  - influence; relevance; significance;
  - reciprocal;
  - collaborative
  - transformative (toward dignity, healing, justice, freedom, equality through equity)

## Intensification of economic concerns

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- **More Poverty:**
- Impact:
- compassion;
- just structures and systems (socio-economic rights; developmental and ecological rights);
- ethos of sacrifice
  
- **More Unemployment:**
- way more than 30%;
- higher among youth;
- **Impact:**
- dignity;
- livelihood
- Job-creating growth
  
- **More Inequality:** South Africa world champions; polarisation and real social distancing and social alienation
- **Impact:** Equity policies and practices

## Intensification of social concerns

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- More Social pathologies:
  - crime;
  - violence(s);
  - drug and substance abuse;
  - Impact:
  - Just peacebuilding
  
- More Social Alienation and Social Enmity with regard to:
  - gender; sexual orientation; colour; culture; socio-economic position; nationality; age; health (stigma); ability; specie-ism
  - Impact:
  - Conscientise
  - Organise
  - Mobilise

- **Virtue-driven Citizenship:**
- **(Virtue = embodied value; predisposition, inclination, intuition, tendency, divine energy, to embody and practice what is good)**
- *faith*, conviction and principledness, and calm;
- *hope* and future-orientedness and positiveness and assertiveness;
- *love* and societal care and atten-paying;
- *wisdom*, discernment, sound judgement, prediction, orientation;
- *temperance* and avoidance of extremes and exaggeration;
- *fortitude* to wait, intervene, act;
- *fairness* and equity

# Intensification of need for responsible (value-driven) citizenship and leadership



- ECARE citizenship and leadership of Stellenbosch University:
- excellence;
- compassion;
- accountability;
- respect;
- equity (equilibrium – some do not have too much and others too little)

“They are responsible for institutions that are charged not only with **preparing graduates** for productive roles in society but also with **questioning** that same society. This is as it should be, as the university’s role is three-fold: **creator, curator, and critic**. In fulfillment of its mission of teaching, research, and service, the university serves as a **creator of new knowledge and understanding**. It is a **curator of what is known**, serving as a repository of the past. Finally, it is a **critic of the status quo**, emphasizing and supporting independent thought. A university education is, or should be, as much about **character and citizenship** as it is about **careers and commerce.**” - Robert Scott, *How university boards work*, 2018.