Impact of COVID-19 on Education: Now and in the Future – A South Asian Perspective

Short Talks on Policy & Practice
DAY 1: Preparing for a Less Disrupted, Better Future for Education
WISE Disrupted, Education Reimagined Series
Salzburg Global Seminar

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Asian Development Bank

#EducationReimagined
Outline

• Education disrupted: COVID-19 and Remote Learning (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal)

• Re-imagining education beyond COVID-19
COVID-19 and Remote Learning

- Overview
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Nepal
School Closures and Different Modalities of Remote Learning

Source: School closures, government responses, and learning inequality around the world during COVID-19, Emiliana Vegas, April 2020, Brookings Inst
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modalities</th>
<th>Student Coverage estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV broadcasting of pre-recorded lessons for pre-primary and primary students</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephonic follow-up</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text messages</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness campaign through local cable networks</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print (supplementary readings)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio (national, FM and community) broadcasting</td>
<td>Being explored; less than 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online learning platform</td>
<td>Less than 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Apps (WhatsApp)</td>
<td>Less than 10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Rapid response**

- Four working groups established to develop remote learning content and roll-out lessons through four platforms: Electronic Media Platform, Mobile Platform, Radio Platform and Internet Platform.
- ‘Shangshad Bangladesh Television’- from 29 March for secondary and from 7 April 2020 for primary. Every subject for 20 minutes from 2-4pm every day. For the secondary level, 10 classes per day for 20 minutes of each class. Classes started on technical and Madrasha education.
In Bhutan, around 170,263 children from classes pre-primary to XII are not attending schools today due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Internet connectivity in all districts. 85% of the population have access to Internet and 95 percent of households have mobile coverage.

Rapid response
- An eLearning Programme launched bringing teachers to television studios to broadcast lessons.
- Online tools such as Google Classroom, e-textbooks, free access to electronic newspaper, and free e-books.
- Whatsapp used by teachers to convey assignment and subject questions to students.
- About 10% of students—no reliable access to online education or in remote communities.
Bhutan e-Learning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Madhya Pradesh</th>
<th>Rajasthan</th>
<th>Haryana</th>
<th>Himachal Pradesh</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smartphone penetration</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Govt Teachers</td>
<td>100K</td>
<td>300K</td>
<td>400K</td>
<td>70K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Teachers connected on WhatsApp</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students enrolled in Govt schools</td>
<td>4.6Mn</td>
<td>8Mn</td>
<td>9.5Mn</td>
<td>4Mn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of students connected on WhatsApp</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of students viewing online content weekly</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>XX%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall experience in state programs:
- 4% (0.8 / 22Mn) students watching online content weekly by the end of Month 1
- YY% (YY / 6.5Mn) students weekly by the end of Month 1

Source: Preliminary overview prepared by Boston Consulting Group (BCG), June 2020
India: Rapid Response

- **Kerala**: Content for class 3-9 and 11 through regional TV channels.
- **Gujarat**: Live classes on Microsoft Teams for classes 3-12.
- **Telangana**: Using e-learning platform for kindergarten to class 6 students.
- **Tamil Nadu**: Online classes through google classrooms, TV and Radio for mid-June.
- **Maharashtra**: Online classes through google classrooms, TV and Radio for mid-June.
- **Andhra Pradesh**: Class 1-12 through WhatsApp, TV and Radio.
- **Himachal Pradesh**: Class 1-12 through WhatsApp, TV and Radio.
- **Madhya Pradesh**: Class 1-12 through WhatsApp, 1-8 via Radio and 9-12 via TV.
- **West Bengal**: TV Programs for class 9-12 students shelved midway.
- **Jharkhand**: At-grade content for class 1-12 through WhatsApp and TV.
- **Rajasthan**: Class 1-12 through WhatsApp, TV and Radio.
- **Haryana**: At-grade content for class 1-12 through WhatsApp and TV.
- **Himachal Pradesh**: Class 1-12 through WhatsApp, TV and Radio.
- **Jharkhand**: Skype, Webex classes for graduate level students TV, Radio, WhatsApp-based content for class 10.
Rapid response

- Online portal has been developed and deployed (http://learning.cehrd.edu.np).
- Workbook prepared for lower grades. Being prepared for higher grades
- Textbooks for new academic year (beginning of April) distributed to most schools
- Detailed guidelines for distance learning for students based on their access to internet, computer, TV and radio.
- The broadcasting through national television and community channels from 15 June 2020.
- Subsidized data packages provided for mobile connection, but not sufficient.
- Local government and Schools asked to collect student data on access to the above media
- Schools are not willing to hold small classes
Re-Imagining Education Beyond COVID-19
Why Re-imagine Education?
Technology, Millennials and Future Economies

EDUCATION FACES REALITIES OF:
- SLOW PACE OF CHANGE
- TRADITIONAL STYLES
- LACK OF SYSTEMS CAPACITY

Geometric progression
Disruptive technology
Open learning styles

Complex skills
Fast obsolete
Uncertain future
Unknown job markets
Framework for Addressing COVID-19

**RESPONSE**

- **Step 1**: Ensure learning continuity with multiple modalities
- Provide protection to students, teachers

**REBUILD**

- **Step 2**: Re-open with safety precautions
- Prevent drop-outs; support transitions
- Making up for lost time; remediation

**RESET**

- **Step 3**: Formalize a new normal
- Outline key directions for reset
- Future proof by increasing resilience
- Embrace EdTech for learning
ADB’s Education Portfolio

Education Sector Lending by Subsector
61 Projects, $5.5 billion
as of 3 June 2020

- Tertiary: 12%
- Secondary: 25%
- Pre-primary: 14%
- TVET: 37%
- Education Sector Development: 12%

Education Pipeline
49 Projects, $5.8 billion
As of April 2020

- Tertiary: 23%
- TVET: 46%
- Education Sector Development: 20%
- Pre-primary: 6%
- Secondary: 5%
ADB’s Education Portfolio: Enabling COVID-19 Response

- Support to critical learning continuity of vulnerable students
- Redress disruptions in skills development, loss of jobs and labor market recovery
- Reallocate uncommitted funds for COVID-19 critical needs of governments
- Re-assess projects for re-design or change in scope to incorporate response to COVID-19
- New projects for approval to be fully responsive to post COVID-19 needs and beyond
THANK YOU!