

Learning loss due to Covid-19 syndemic & its socio-economic implications



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Areas covered in this presentation

1. Learning loss
2. Socio-economic implications
3. Suggestions

Learning loss in 2 ways:

- (1) learning that has not taken place
- (2) already acquired learning lost or forgotten

- school **closures**: March 17, 2020- Sept 11, 2021 (**544** days)
- **3.8 Crore** students, **10 lakh** teachers affected
- Even before Bangladesh grappling with out-of school children (**OSC**) and **low** and **unequal** learning outcomes.
- 7 million OSC in 2016 (+ 20% due to pandemic) = 8.4 million (projected)

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- Pre-pandemic: 58% children did not achieve minimum reading proficiency by grade 5.
- Post-pandemic: Increase to 76% during school closures.

- Each child differently impacted socio-economically
- students who were ahead will continue to pull ahead
- 56% not join in online classes/Sangsad TV
- ethnic minorities (75%), madrasa (68%), with disabilities (61%) and living in rural areas (60%).

- **Digital divide:** 9.2% poorest vs 91% richest had access to tele-broadcasting/internet
- **Students 'studying very little' and 'studying not at all' because:**
- 44% not getting direction from schools, 22% reported scarcity of food
- non-supportive families (19%), poor mental health condition (18%), lack of environment to study (11%)

- **Language and remoteness:** challenges for ethnic minorities.
- For **madrasa**: **shortage of food** led to discontinuation of education at home
- Rural areas and madrasas students: **no clear directions** from schools.
- **Lack of monitoring:** challenge to continue studying at home

Impact on overall **welfare** of students

- 94% reported increased time on **household chores/childcare**
- 25% mothers concerned that adolescents will **not return to school**
- **5+ million** students will **drop out** (WB)

Impact on overall **welfare** of students

- disruption of **school feeding** & risk of **undernutrition**
- Poor households cut down **nutritional intake** for **financial constraints**
- **Children under 5** were most vulnerable groups affected by reduced food
- higher risks for **domestic violence** and **reduced access to education for girls**

85 female students of a school were married off



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দেশের উত্তরের জেলা কুড়িগ্রামের ফুলবাড়িতে এক শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠানেই ৮৫ জন শিক্ষার্থীর বাল্যবিয়ে হয়েছে। বর্তমানে বিদ্যালয়ে উপস্থিতি কম হওয়ায় শিক্ষকদের মাঝে হতাশা বিরাজ করছে



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এক বিদ্যালয়ে ৮৫ শিক্ষার্থীর বাল্যবিয়ে!

523 female students were married off in an upzilla

বাংলা ট্রিবিউন

এক উপজেলায় ৫২৩ স্কুলছাত্রীর বিয়ে

আরিফুল ইসলাম, কুড়িগ্রাম

২১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১, ২০:২০

Decline in learning & retention

- Learning Adjusted Years of Schooling (LAYS) are expected to fall from 6.0 years in 2019 to 5.3 years in 2021 (simulation)
- Costs Bangladesh economy between \$67 billion and \$114 billion in GDP

Learning loss & labor market returns

- student will face a reduction around \$335 in yearly earnings, (almost 6.8 percent of their annual income)
- cost the country's economy up to \$114 billion in GDP

Suggestions

- Initiative for multi-modal remote learning delivery
- Send physical learning packages to students' home, mobile based lessons or face-to-face classes maintaining social distance
- More engagement between teachers and students, either in person maintaining physical distance, or virtually
- Remedial education to help students catch up by identifying learning loss through formative assessment

Suggestions...

- Individualized or grouping students by learning levels during remediation
- Reduce additional dropouts and absenteeism once school open
- Schools re-opening ensuring critical safety and health facilities and protocols
- Communication campaigns to ensure learning continues while schools are closed as well as when re-open

Suggestions.....

- Removing psychological trauma through recreational activities at schools
- gifts or increase of stipend
- Hotline number so that the students can report any kind of complaints including abuse, food shortages, stipend, etc
- Incentives to teachers to take extra care of students
- collective strategy and action plan

Thank you for your patient hearing

- **Any question?**