

**OUR DAYS....NOWADAYS**

The rapidly-developing coronavirus crisis is dominating global headlines and altering life as we know it. Many schools worldwide have closed. Millions of students are rapidly adjusting to learning and socializing remotely, spending more time with family, and sacrificing comfort and convenience for the greater good.

School closures are due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. Moms, dads, and kids all over the country have suddenly found themselves in a cozy and chaotic new situation.

As the world is fighting against the COVID-19 outbreak, many countries have now closed high-schools nationwide, impacting nearly 50% of students globally. This is not unprecedented; the world has seen this many children out of school at the same time before.However,in a situation like this it is normal to feel sad, worried, confused, scared or angry.

School closures carry high social and economic costs for people across communities. Their impact however is particularly severe for the most vulnerable boys and girls and their families. The resulting disruptions exacerbate already existing disparities within the education system but also in other aspects of their lives. These include:

1] Interrupted learning: Schooling provides essential learning and when schools close, children and youth are deprived opportunities for growth and development. The disadvantages are disproportionate for under-privileged learners who tend to have fewer educational opportunities beyond school.

2] Confusion and stress for teachers: When schools close, especially unexpectedly and for unknown durations, teachers are often unsure of their obligations and how to maintain connections with students to support learning. Transitions to distance learnign platforms tend to be messy and frustrating, even in the best circumstances. I

3] Parents unprepared for distance and home schooling: When schools close, parents are often asked to facilitate the learning of children at home and can struggle to perform this task. This is especially true for parents with limited education and resources.

4] Social isolation: Schools are hubs of social activity and human interaction. When schools close, many children and youth miss out of on social contact that is essential to learning and development.

5]Challenges measuring and validating learning: Calendared assessments and examinations that determine admission or advancement to new education levels and institutions, are thrown into disarry when schools close. Strategies to postpone, skip or adminsiter examinations at a distance raise serious concerns about fairness, especialy when access to learning becomes variable. Disruptions to assessments results in stress for students and their families .

How can anyone keep learning and stay positive in times of uncertainty?

Have you also been affected by school closures? Are you staying home due to quarantines? Share your story with us.