



A survey on

Perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 on young children and early childhood development in the Asia-Pacific region

Bangladesh Country Report



About the survey

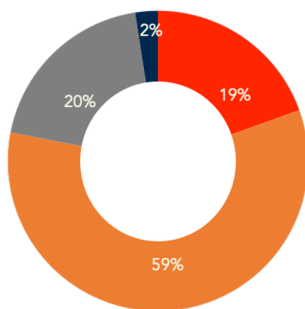
This ARNEC survey was conducted in April-May 2020 to generate the views of the ECD community and amplify its voice on the conditions of young children and status of ECD in the region as a result of COVID-19.

Focus on Bangladesh

A country report was prepared for Bangladesh because of the significant response from the ECD community in the country. A total of 41 responses were received. Download the full report for the region in <https://arnec.net>.

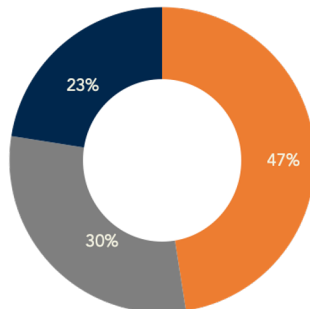
How do the respondents from the ECD community in Bangladesh assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

Stress levels of families



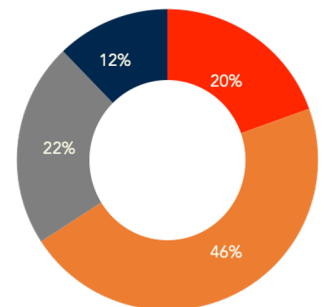
Very much stressed Stressed Fairly stressed
Slightly stressed Not stressed

Coping abilities of families



Not coping Slightly coping Fairly coping
Coping Coping well

Adverse effect on young children



Very much adversely affected Adversely affected
Fairly adversely affected Slightly adversely affected
Not adversely affected

What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in Bangladesh according to respondents?



- 1 Work stopped/loss of income/limited savings
- 2 Inadequate food/looming hunger
- 3 More difficult or limited access to healthcare
- 4 Prolonged home stay/limited mobility
- 5 School/ECD centre closures

What does the ECD community in Bangladesh say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- No/reduced access to nutritious meals due to rising costs
- Increased food insecurity

On safety and security

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse

On health

- No/reduced access to good healthcare services/facilities
- Poor physical health
- No/reduced access to childhood immunisation

On responsive caregiving

- Lack of quality caregiving at home
- Caregiving stress faced by parents/caregivers
- Challenge in accessing caregivers

On early learning

- Learning routines disrupted with schools closed
- Lack of quality early learning at home
- Lack of resources/knowledge/capabilities at home for early learning
- Social-emotional development of children affected

What services for young children in Bangladesh have been disrupted by COVID-19?



- 1 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old
- 2 Early learning in primary school for children aged 6-8 years old
- 3 Care-seeking for sick children
- 4 Care and special assistance for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities
- 5 Day-care/ECD services for children 0-3 years old

At risk...

Young children living with very poor households; with special needs; in rural/remote places; in informal settlements; and those who might have been excluded on the basis of gender, location, ethnicity, faith, and/or language disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in Bangladesh and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

“Vulnerable families will be unable to practice hygienic measures and are deprived of nutritious food due to lack of income.”

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in Bangladesh according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Television
- 2 Social media

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Online platforms
- 2 Social media

Unemployed migrant workers are returning to villages. What are the views of the ECD community on the impact of return migration on the care, development, and well-being of young children in Bangladesh?

Positive:

- Increased quality time with parents
- Better responsive caregiving
- More space for children to play outdoors
- More support from parents

Negative:

- Higher risk of infection
- Deterioration of mental well-being
- Exposure to stress and anxiety from parents
- Poor responsive caregiving

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in Bangladesh?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Provide financial support, as well as food and nutrition support to young children from poor and vulnerable families
- 2 Ensure access to basic and emergency health services e.g. vaccinations
- 3 Advocate for government initiatives for ECD and young children
- 4 Support parents/caregivers through capacity building and developing ECD materials for home-based learning



Nutrition is one of the top concerns from the respondents in Bangladesh. According to UNICEF, as of 2019, 28% of young children suffer from chronic malnutrition in Bangladesh. In addition, only 18.9% of children 36-59 months old participated in early childhood education.

Source: UNICEF, 2020

Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/press-releases/bangladesh-sees-sharp-decline-child-malnutrition-while-violent-disciplining-children>



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Views of the ECD community

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A survey on

Perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 on young children and early childhood development in the Asia-Pacific region

Bhutan Country Report



About the survey

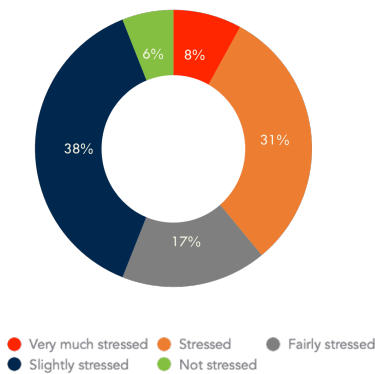
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Focus on Bhutan

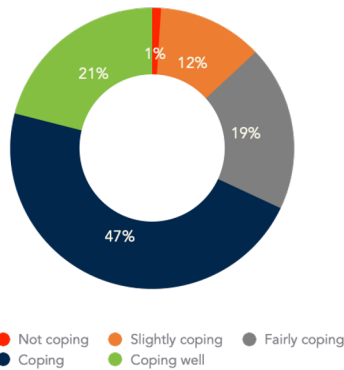
A country report was prepared for Bhutan because of the significant response from the ECD community in the country. A total of 245 responses were received. Download the full report for the region in <https://arnek.net>.

How do the respondents from the ECD community in Bhutan assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

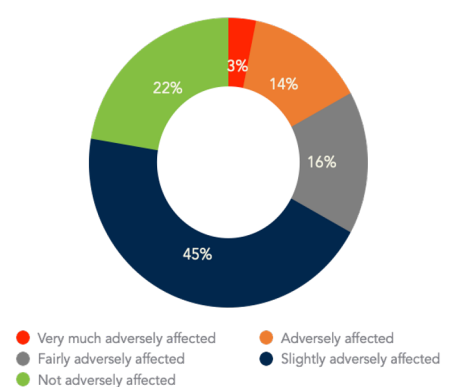
Stress levels of families



Coping abilities of families



Adverse effect on young children



What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in Bhutan according to respondents?



- 1 School/ECD centre closures
- 2 Work stoppage/income loss/limited savings
- 3 Prolonged home stay/limited mobility
- 4 High childcare burden at home
- 5 Disrupted family routine

What does the ECD community in Bhutan say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- No/reduced access to nutritious meals
- Increased food insecurity
- Increased awareness on nutrition

On safety and security

- Lack of parental supervision
- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse

On health

- No/reduced access to healthcare services/facilities
- Fear/risk of COVID-19 infection
- Increased awareness of hygiene & infectious disease

On responsive caregiving

- Lack of quality caregiving at home
- Challenge in accessing caregivers (e.g. due to lockdown)

On early learning

- Disrupted learning routines with schools closed
- Limited ECD learning for children, especially those with no connectivity
- Ill-equipped parents/caregivers for quality learning

What services for young children in Bhutan have been disrupted by COVID-19?



1 Daycare/ECD services for children 0-3 years old

2 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old

3 Training programs for ECD teachers/facilitators

4 Play, reading, and story-telling groups for caregivers and children, including toy-making and community playgroups

5 Early learning in primary school for children 6-8 years old

At risk...

Young children living with poor, migrant families; in rural/remote places; and those who might have been excluded on the basis of gender, location, ethnicity, faith, and/or language disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in Bhutan and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

“Children will be less likely return to school, more vulnerable, deprived, left out, neglected.”

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in Bhutan according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Television
- 2 Social media

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Social media
- 2 Television

Unemployed migrant workers are returning to villages. What are the views of the ECD community on the impact of return migration on the care, development, and well-being of young children in Bhutan?

Positive:

- Better responsive caregiving
- Reunited with family
- Children are safe
- More quality time with family
- Lower risk of infection

Negative:

- Higher risk of infection
- Poor mental well-being
- Loss of learning
- Poor responsive caregiving

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in Bhutan?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Develop mechanisms to deliver coordinated and multi-sectoral ECCD services for all children, including those most vulnerable
- 2 Create awareness on COVID-19 for parents and young children, e.g. through social network
- 3 Educate parents of the importance of having more time with young children
- 4 Ensure universal access to ECD programmes through dedicated television channels and broadcast media so that parents are able to engage their children in productive ways



Many respondents in Bhutan cited the importance of using social media in the COVID-19 environment for learning and awareness-building. According to the Bhutan Living Standards Survey Report 2017, about one-fifth (17.7%) of the total households own computers/laptops, 35.4% in urban areas (35.4%), and 8.0% in rural areas. On average, 64.6% of households own smart phones. These realities are worth considering in providing home-based learning resources for young children in Bhutan.

Source: Bhutan Living Standards Survey, 2017
Retrieved from <http://www.nsb.gov.bt/publication/files/pub2yo10667rb.pdf>



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A survey on

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India Country Report



About the survey

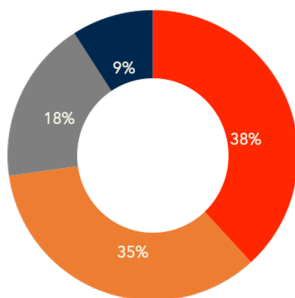
This ARNEC survey was conducted in April-May 2020 to generate the views of the ECD community and amplify its voice on the conditions of young children and status of ECD in the region as a result of COVID-19.

Focus on India

A country report was prepared for India because of the significant response from the ECD community in the country. A total of 55 responses were received. Download the full report for the region in <https://arnec.net>.

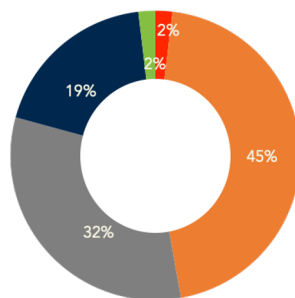
How do the respondents from the ECD community in India assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

Stress levels of families



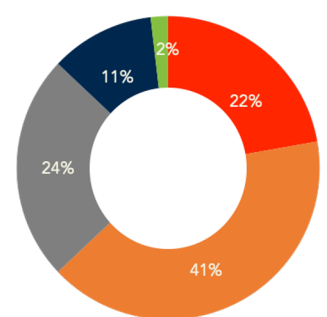
Very much stressed
Stressed
Fairly stressed
Slightly stressed

Coping abilities of families



Not coping
Slightly coping
Fairly coping
Coping
Coping well

Adverse effect on young children



Very much adversely affected
Adversely affected
Fairly adversely affected
Slightly adversely affected
Not adversely affected

What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in India according to respondents?



- 1 Work stoppage/loss of income/limited savings
- 2 Inadequate food/looming hunger
- 3 Prolonged homestay/limited mobility
- 4 School/ECD centre closures
- 5 More difficult or limited access to healthcare

What does the ECD community in India say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- No/reduced access to nutritious meals due to disrupted nutritious meal programme in school/centres
- Increased food insecurity

On safety and security

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse

On health

- No/reduced access to healthcare services/facilities
- No/reduced access to childhood immunisation
- Deferment of other/non-urgent healthcare needs/services

On responsive caregiving

- Lack of quality caregiving at home due to ill-equipped families
- Caregiving stress faced by parents/caregivers

On early learning

- Disrupted learning and routines with schools closed
- Lack of resources/knowledge/capabilities at home for early learning
- Poor families face more challenges in early learning

What services for young children in India have been disrupted by COVID-19?



- 1 Daycare/ECD services for children 0-3 years old
- 2 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old
- 3 Centre-based health and nutrition services
- 4 Programmes to ensure food security
- 5 Early learning in primary school for children 6-8 years old

At risk...

Young children living with poor, migrant families on the move; in rural/remote places; in urban slums; and those who might have been excluded on the basis of gender, location, ethnicity, faith, and/or language disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in India and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

"Starvation, illnesses and deaths linked on the rise of migrant populations on the move."

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in India according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Television
- 2 Mobile Apps

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Online Platforms
- 2 Social Media

Unemployed migrant workers are returning to villages. What are the views of the ECD community on the impact of return migration on the care, development, and well-being of young children in India?

Positive:

- Better responsive caregiving
- Reunited with family
- Children are safe
- More quality time with family
- More support from parents

Negative:

- Higher risk of infection
- Increase in food insecurity
- Less access to basic living needs
- Loss of learning
- Poor responsive caregiving

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in India?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Provide food and nutrition support including milk powder to young children from the marginalised and disadvantaged communities
- 2 Provide access to basic health services, e.g. vaccinations
- 3 Educate parents and caregivers with parenting and early learning strategies
- 4 Advocate to government more resources for ECD



In India, school closures due to COVID-19 have impacted 28 million preschool children enrolled in Anganwadi centres and 247 million children enrolled in elementary and secondary education. With only 24% of households having access to the internet in India, many children are unable to access online learning opportunities. To ensure continuity of education, the government has used multiple channels including web portals, mobile apps, TV channels, radio, and podcasts to reach children.

Source: UNICEF, 2020

Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/india/press-releases/urgent-action-needed-safeguard-futures-600-million-south-asian-children-threatened>



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Indonesia Country Report



About the survey

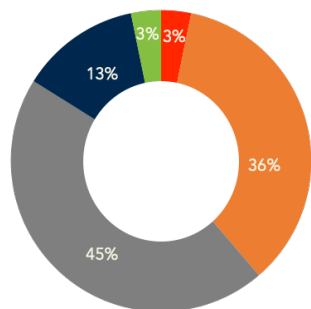
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Focus on Indonesia

A country report was prepared for Indonesia because of the significant response from the ECD community in the country. A total of 31 responses were received. Download the full report for the region in <https://arneck.net>.

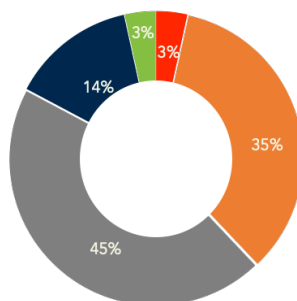
How do the respondents from the ECD community in Indonesia assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

Stress levels of families



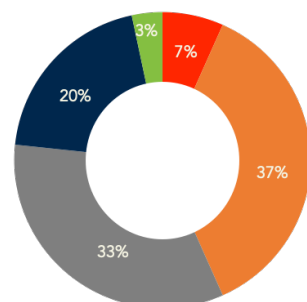
Very much stressed (red), Stressed (orange), Fairly stressed (grey), Slightly stressed (dark blue), Not stressed (green)

Coping abilities of families



Not coping (red), Slightly coping (orange), Fairly coping (grey), Coping (dark blue), Coping well (green)

Adverse effect on young children



Very much adversely affected (red), Adversely affected (orange), Fairly adversely affected (grey), Slightly adversely affected (dark blue), Not adversely affected (green)

What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in Indonesia according to respondents?



- 1 Work stopped/loss of income/limited savings
- 2 Prolonged home stay/limited mobility
- 3 School/ECD centre closures
- 4 Higher childcare burden at home
- 5 More difficult or limited access to healthcare

What does the ECD community in Indonesia say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- No/reduced access to nutritious meals due to rising costs
- No/reduced access to nutritious meal due to disrupted meal programme in schools/centres

On early learning

- Learning and routines disrupted with schools closed
- Lack of quality early learning at home due to ill-equipped parents/caregivers
- Lack of stimulation in learning

On responsive caregiving

- Caregiving stress faced by parents/caregivers
- Lack of quality caregiving at home

On safety and security

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse
- Lack of attention on child protection by government
- No/reduced access to social protection and social services

On health

- No/reduced access to good healthcare services/facilities
- No/reduced access to childhood Immunisation

What services for young children in Indonesia have been disrupted by COVID-19?



- 1 Early learning in primary school for children 6-8 years old
- 2 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old
- 3 Day-care/ECD services for children 0-3 years old
- 4 Care and special assistance for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities
- 5 Training programs for ECD teachers/facilitators

At risk...

Young children living with very poor households, with special needs, in informal settlements, and those who might have been excluded on the basis of gender disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in Indonesia and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

"Families living in crowded communities find it difficult to practice physical distancing. They also have limited access to basic hygiene services that make them vulnerable to contract the virus."

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in Indonesia according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Television
- 2 Social media

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Online platforms
- 2 Social media

Unemployed migrant workers are returning to villages. What are the views of the ECD community on the impact of return migration on the care, development, and well-being of young children in Indonesia?

Positive:

- Increased quality time with parents
- Reunited with family
- Improved mental well-being
- Children are safe and protected

Negative:

- Higher risk of infection
- Increased food insecurity
- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/abuse

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in Indonesia?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Ensure access to basic health services, e.g. vaccinations
- 2 Provide food and nutrition support to young children from poor and vulnerable families
- 3 Provide guidelines and ECD resources for parents to support them in conducting home-based learning, especially for those with limited internet connectivity
- 4 Educate teachers and provide support for them to conduct distance learning



During COVID-19, over 60 million children in Indonesia were out of school temporarily. Many of them did not have access to the internet and electronic devices. For children to learn from home, the Government of Indonesia has broadcast an educational TV programme called *Belajar dari Rumah* (Learning from Home) from Mondays to Fridays targeting children in preschool to high school. It also has a parenting programme.

Source: UNICEF, 2020

Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/coronavirus/stories/learning-home-during-covid-19-pandemic>



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A survey on

Perspectives on the impact of COVID-19 on young children and early childhood development in the Asia-Pacific region

Nepal Country Report



About the survey

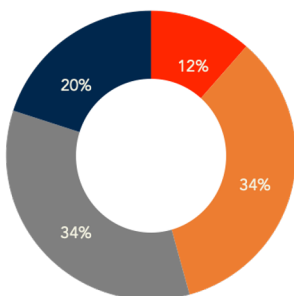
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Focus on Nepal

A country report was prepared for Nepal because of the significant response from the ECD community in the country. A total of 37 responses were received. Download the full report for the region in <https://arneck.net>.

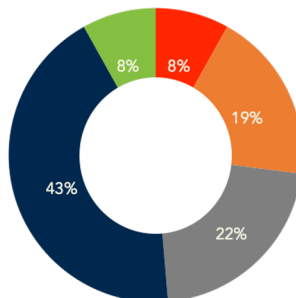
How do the respondents from the ECD community in Nepal assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

Stress levels of families



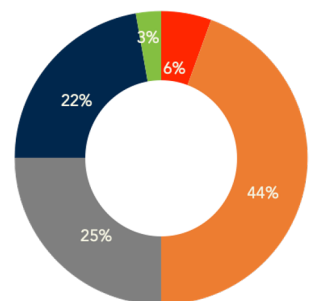
Very much stressed (red), Stressed (orange), Fairly stressed (grey), Slightly stressed (dark blue), Not stressed (green)

Coping abilities of families



Not coping (red), Slightly coping (orange), Fairly coping (grey), Coping (dark blue), Coping well (green)

Adverse effect on young children



Very much adversely affected (red), Adversely affected (orange), Slightly adversely affected (dark blue), Fairly adversely affected (grey), Not adversely affected (green)

What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in Nepal according to respondents?



- 1 School/ECD centre closures
- 2 Prolonged homestay/limited mobility
- 3 Work stopped/loss of income/limited savings
- 4 More difficult or limited access to healthcare
- 5 Inadequate food/looming hunger

What does the ECD community in Nepal say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- Reduced/no access to nutritious meals
- Increased food insecurity due to rising food costs

On responsive caregiving

- Lack of quality caregiving at home as parents are busy working from home

On safety and security

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse

On early learning

- Learning routines disrupted with schools closed
- Lack of quality early learning at home due to ill-equipped parents/caregivers

On health

- No/reduced access to good healthcare services/facilities
- No/reduced access to childhood immunisation
- Other/non-urgent healthcare needs/services deferred

What services for young children in Nepal have been disrupted by COVID-19?



- 1 Early learning in primary school for children 6-8 years old
- 2 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old
- 3 Care and special assistance for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities
- 4 Daycare/ECD services for children 0-3 years old
- 5 Social support from other families and the community

At risk...

Young children living with poor households and in informal settlements, as well as those with special needs disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in Nepal and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

"The poor will be highly impacted by this pandemic as there will be no regular income. This will likely increase child labour and child marriage."

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in Nepal according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Radio
- 2 Television

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Online platforms
- 2 Social media

Unemployed migrant workers are returning to villages. What are the views of the ECD community on the impact of return migration on the care, development, and well-being of young children in Nepal?

Positive:

- Better responsive caregiving
- Reunited with family
- Increased quality time with parents
- Lower risk of infection

Negative:

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/abuse
- Higher risk of infection
- Traumatic/confusing experience

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in Nepal?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Provide financial support, as well as food and nutrition support to young children from poor and vulnerable families
- 2 Develop ECD materials and programmes, especially for children with no access to the internet (e.g. radio programme)
- 3 Educate parents of the importance of early learning to encourage home-based learning
- 4 Ensure accessibility of basic health care, e.g. vaccinations



Respondents from Nepal indicated that radio is the top channel/platform to reach households. According to the Nepal Media Survey 2020, only 26% of those polled in the nationwide survey accessed the internet every day. Nearly half still relied on radio for local news. This reality is worth considering in reaching out to children and their parents/caregivers in Nepal.

Source: Nepal Times, 2020

Retrieved from <https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/mobile-nepal-is-hooked-on-youtube/>



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Philippines Country Report



About the survey

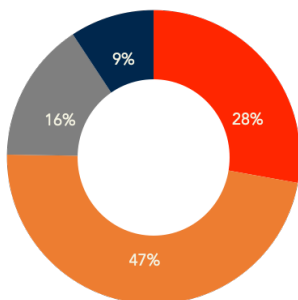
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Focus on the Philippines

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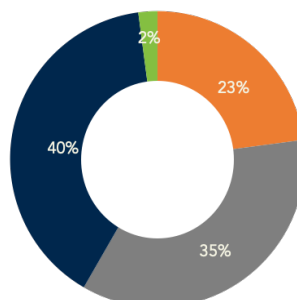
How do the respondents from the ECD community in the Philippines assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

Stress levels of families



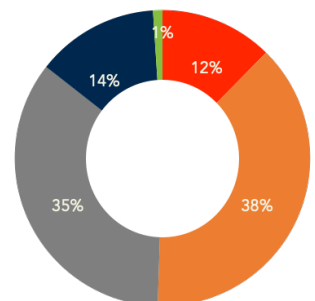
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Coping abilities of families



Not coping (red), Slightly coping (orange), Fairly coping (grey), Coping (dark blue), Coping well (green)

Adverse effect on young children



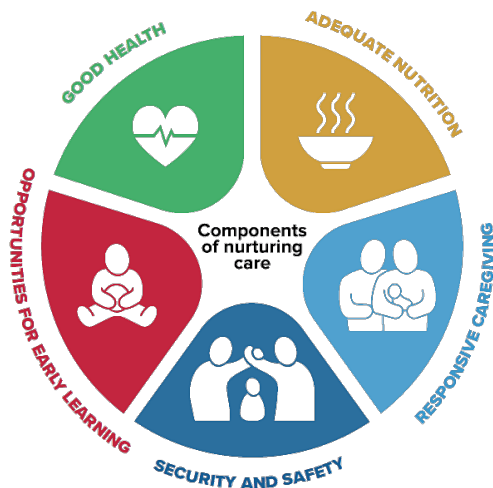
Very much adversely affected (red), Adversely affected (orange), Fairly adversely affected (grey), Slightly adversely affected (dark blue), Not adversely affected (green)

What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in the Philippines according to respondents?



- 1 Work stopped/loss of income/limited savings
- 2 Inadequate food/looming hunger
- 3 Prolonged homestay/limited mobility
- 4 Inadequate relief/response from social protection/welfare service agencies
- 5 School/ECD centre closures

What does the ECD community in the Philippines say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- No/reduced access to nutritious meals
- Increased food insecurity due to rising costs

On safety and security

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse
- Increased vulnerability to sexual abuse

On health

- No/reduced access to good healthcare services/facilities
- No/reduced access to childhood immunisation

On responsive caregiving

- Challenge in accessing caregivers (e.g. due to lockdown)
- Lack of quality caregiving at home due to ill-equipped families

On early learning

- Disrupted learning and routines with schools closed
- Limited ECD learning for children especially those with no connectivity
- Ill-equipped parents/caregivers for quality learning

What services for young children in the Philippines have been disrupted by COVID-19?



- 1 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old
- 2 Day-care/ECD services for children 0-3 years old
- 3 Early learning in primary school for children 6-8 years old
- 4 Care and special assistance for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities
- 5 Training programs for ECD teachers/facilitators

At risk...

Young children living with poor, migrant families; in rural/remote places; in informal settlements; and those who might have been excluded on the basis of gender, location, ethnicity, faith, and/or language disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in the Philippines and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

"Children have limited access to healthy food, are living in unhygienic environments, and have limited knowledge on the pandemic."

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in the Philippines according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Television
- 2 Social media

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Social media
- 2 Online platforms

Unemployed migrant workers are returning to villages. What are the views of the ECD community on the impact of return migration on the care, development, and well-being of young children in Philippines?

Positive:

- Increased quality time with parents
- Reunited with family
- Children are safe and protected
- Improved mental wellbeing

Negative:

- Difficulty adapting to new environment at home
- Higher risk of infection
- Increased food insecurity

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in the Philippines?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Ensure access to basic health services, e.g. vaccinations
- 2 Educate families on COVID-19 and prevention strategies, e.g. promotion of hygienic practices
- 3 Provide financial support as well as food and nutrition support to young children from poor and vulnerable families
- 4 Support parents/caregivers through capacity building and developing ECD materials and activities for home-based learning



Many respondents in the Philippines expressed concern on the nutrition for the young children during the lockdown. Before the pandemic, malnutrition among young children was already a significant public health concern. According to UNICEF, one in three Filipino children under five years old are stunted, which means they are too short for their age, while about 7% of children are too thin for their height. Because of the lockdown, access to good nutrition for young children in the Philippines is an urgent concern, which might worsen children's well-being.

Source: UNICEF, 2019

Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/press-releases/unicef-many-children-and-adolescents-philippines-are-not-growing-healthily>



A survey on

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in the Asia-Pacific region

Views of the ECD community

June 2020 | Available in the ARNEC website

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Singapore Country Report



About the survey

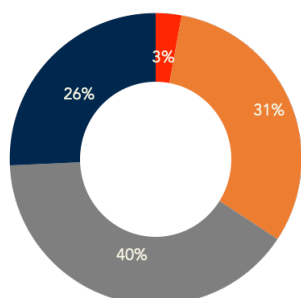
This ARNEC survey was conducted in April-May 2020 to generate the views of the ECD community and amplify its voice on the conditions of young children and status of ECD in the region as a result of COVID-19.

Focus on Singapore

A country report was prepared for Singapore because of the significant response from the ECD community in the country. A total of 35 responses were received. Download the full report for the region in <https://arnec.net>.

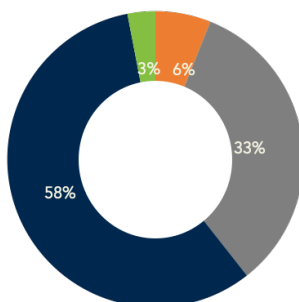
How do the respondents from the ECD community in Singapore assess the stress levels and coping abilities of families as a result of COVID-19, as well as the effect on young children?

Stress levels of families



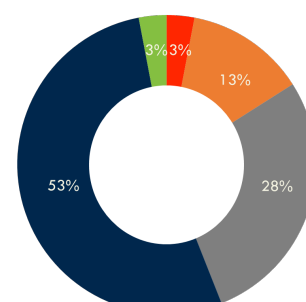
Very much stressed (red), Stressed (orange), Fairly stressed (grey), Slightly stressed (dark blue), Not stressed (green)

Coping abilities of families



Not coping (red), Slightly coping (orange), Fairly coping (grey), Coping (dark blue), Coping well (green)

Adverse effect on young children



Very much adversely affected (red), Adversely affected (orange), Fairly adversely affected (grey), Slightly adversely affected (dark blue), Not adversely affected (green)

What factors contribute to anxiety and stress of families in Singapore according to respondents?



- 1 Prolonged home stay/limited mobility
- 2 Disrupted family routine
- 3 Work stoppage/loss of income/limited savings

- 4 School/ECD centre closures
- 5 High childcare burden at home

What does the ECD community in Singapore say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurturing care?



On nutrition

- No/reduced access to nutritious meals due to disrupted meal programme in school/centres
- Increased food insecurity

On safety and security

- Increased vulnerability to domestic violence/child abuse
- Social protection and social services for child protection still in place

On health

- Fear/risk of COVID-19 infection
- Other/non-urgent healthcare needs/services deferred
- Reduced outdoor activity

On responsive caregiving

- Lack of quality caregiving at home as parents are working from home
- Caregiving stress faced by parents/caregivers

On early learning

- Disrupted learning and routines with schools closed
- Ill-equipped parents/caregivers for quality learning
- Online learning for children

What services for young children in Singapore have been disrupted by COVID-19?



1 Daycare/ECD services for children 0-3 years old

2 Pre-primary education for children 4-6 years old

3 Care and special assistance for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities

4 Play, reading, and story-telling groups for caregivers and children, including toy-making and community playgroups

5 Early learning in primary school for children 6-8 years old

At risk...

Young children living in very poor households as well as those with special needs disproportionately bear the pandemic-induced burden in Singapore and in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Respondents say:

"For young children with disability and/or special needs, the lockdown may mean they are not able to go to school. Home-based learning may not yield desired results for them. Their parents, who are taking care of them at home, are subjected to greater stress."

What is the most practical channel to reach targeted audiences in Singapore according to respondents?



To reach households

- 1 Television
- 2 Social media

To reach policy-makers

- 1 Online Platforms
- 2 Social Media

What are the highly urgent and important interventions for ECD in Singapore?



According to the ECD community, there is a need to:

- 1 Educate parents/caregivers with parenting and early learning strategies as well as educate teachers for online teaching
- 2 Develop ECD resources/materials to share with parents/caregivers for home based learning
- 3 Provide mental health support for young children as well as parents/caregivers
- 4 Ensure young children from vulnerable families, e.g. poor families, have access to food and continue to receive social support



To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in preschools, the Early Childhood Development Agency in Singapore has required preschools to adhere to safe management measures under "COVID-Safe ABCs" – COVID-Safe Access, COVID-Safe Behaviours, and COVID-Safe Classrooms.

COVID-Safe Access - Restrict entry of visitors as well as staff and children who face higher risk of infection. Temperature checks to be enforced multiple times a day.

COVID-Safe Behaviours - Adopt safe behaviours and norms such as mask/shield to be used by all staff and children aged 2 years and older, as well as increase frequency of handwashing and disinfecting premises.

COVID-Safe Classrooms - Minimise interaction between children and staff from different classes to reduce the risk of transmission across classes.

Source: Early Childhood Development Agency, 2020

Retrieved from: <https://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/PHASED-REOPENING-OF-PRESCHOOLS-AND-EARLY-INTERVENTION-CENTRES-FROM-2-JUNE-2020.aspx>



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