

## For immediate release

# End Education Exclusion : RESUME and RENEW Education for 26 Crore Children!

September 5, 2021

The National Coalition on Education Emergency is releasing [a research brief](#) on teacher's day. This research brief summarizes research studies conducted across India and selected international studies between early 2020 and mid of 2021. The complete research compendium can be found [here](#).

The research findings convey a consistent and grim picture. Continuous school closures and the limited reach of online/remote learning has had **catastrophic consequences for children, on the academic, emotional, nutritional, social and economic fronts.**

- **More than 90% of underprivileged parents (97% in rural areas)** want schools to reopen as soon as possible (SCHOOL, 2021)
- As early as mid 2020, UNESCO estimated that **about 14 crore students in primary school and 13 crore in secondary school** had been affected by the lockdown in India (UNESCO, 2020).
- **Only 4% of students in rural areas and less than 20% in urban areas** have access to essential digital infrastructure. (Reddy et al., 2020)

We must act now to [RESUME and RENEW Education for 26 Crore Children!](#)

- State Governments should open schools (from anganwadis to high schools) at the earliest. Younger children should be prioritized
- Guidelines should be put in place for safe reopening of schools and for helping children to resume their learning.
- All teachers and non-teaching staff should be vaccinated on a priority basis.

### Suggested measures for school re-opening:

- Open schools safely: provide health and sanitation measures; ensure vaccination and testing of teachers; pre-plan seating arrangements; limit numbers per classroom, alternate attendance, use additional public buildings and open spaces
- Communicate with parents and engage them in the school reopening plans: Bring every child back to school.
- Provide Mid-Day Meals to all students in publicly funded schools, whether they are attending physically or remotely.
- Design effective strategies for schools and teachers to support students' socio-emotional well-being and address learning gaps.

The National Education Emergency Coalition is collating good practices and evidence to support school re-opening strategies.

**- National Coalition on the Education Emergency (educators and activists group working across the country)**

Click [here](#) to access the research brief.

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