**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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aoNEaOZIAWx3IUjIVwgISU_qSUH9sXBE?usp=sharing) 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](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1coEeu0lZRBsMEg366uIVxEYPS7Bc2ey_nO2uCIQwSyE/edit?usp=sharing).

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!](https://educationemergency.net/2021/08/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](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aoNEaOZIAWx3IUjIVwgISU_qSUH9sXBE?usp=sharing) to access the research brief.

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