



OPEN SCHOOLS NOW: END EDUCATION EXCLUSION

UNESCO estimates that about 140 million students in primary and 130 million in secondary have been affected by the lockdown in India (UNESCO,2020).

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE STRONGLY INTERSECTS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIVIDE IN THE COUNTRY.

- As per NSSO – only 4% students in rural areas have access to essential digital infrastructure – more than 80 % students in urban areas do not have access to essential digital infrastructure
- Only 2 % of students from the lowest income quintile reported having essential digital infrastructure.
- Only 4 % of SC and STs, 8 % of Muslims and 7 % of OBC students had access.

WOMEN AND LEARNERS FROM MOST MARGINALISED SECTIONS ARE LEAST LIKELY TO ACCESS ONLINE EDUCATION.

A recent survey of 3176 households across four Indian states conducted by the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (Ghatak et al., 2020) found:

- In more than 70 per cent of the households, the phone belonged to a male member
- Only 26 % of the girls who responded to the survey said that they had unhindered access to phones at home.
- Girls spent a disproportionate amount of time on chores and care work and less time on education.



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF ONLINE PEDAGOGY?

- 80% of parents in govt schools (100% in Bihar) and 60 % in private schools felt that education was not delivered.
- More than half of teachers surveyed perceive remote learning materials and methods to be less effective than classroom teaching
- 50% of urban teachers and 40% of rural teachers were in touch with students through WhatsApp and phone calls.