**Alokit and Global School Leaders (GSL)**

**Key Takeaways from the Global School Leaders’ Pulse Survey 2021**

* In July 2021, Global School Leaders (GSL) completed its second GSL Annual Pulse Survey with 3,751 school leaders from more than 20 countries.
  + **713 respondents from India, 576 of them were school leaders** (principals, vice principals and proprietors); 420 govt schools, 149 private schools; 362 rural, 129 urban, 85 semi-urban
* The respondents are not representative of the countries as they self-selected to participate in the survey circulated by a network of organizations including Alokit.
* A big divide in terms of students' dropout from government and private schools. 61% of private schools saw dropouts compared to 15% government schools.
* Similarly, twice as many urban schools (40%) saw students' drop-out compared to rural schools (20%). It also explains why most private school principals (58%) are concerned about the financial viability of their schools.
* School leaders worried the most about students’ and teachers’ health and safety (65 %), followed by students being left behind in curriculum (47%), and schools closing again due to the pandemic (43%).
* 53% school leaders reported loss of life due to Covid-19 in their school community (students, teachers. Staff and their family members). 65% among urban schools, 31% among rural schools.
* More than 80% school leaders concerned about mental health issues in their school. More than 50% school leaders emphasized need for information/guidelines to address mental health concerns among teachers and students.
* Two-thirds of school leaders have expressed concern about children being out of school for many months.

**A Brief Note on Potential High Frequency School Leader Survey in India**

As schools reopen after an extended closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, year 2022 (or next academic year) will be crucial for the schools. School leaders will be at the forefront of managing the consequences of extended school closures. A high frequency survey of school leaders can thus be crucial to understand their challenges, strategies and support needed in addressing these challenges. Over the next one year, the survey can track enrolment, remedial learning, policy communication, level of support available to address mental health concerns, and the school’s preparedness to facilitate student learning in case of future school closure due to the pandemic. Broadly, we propose the following:

* Partner with 3-4 organizations working in different parts of the country
* Randomly select 200 school principals from 4/5 states in India, aim to select a representative group at the state or a district level
  + Govt vs private schools
  + Primary vs secondary schools
  + Rural vs urban schools
  + Male vs female school principals
* Conduct 6 surveys during the year (at an equal interval of 2 months)
* Relatively limited scope of survey (10-12 fixed questions; 6-8 questions can vary as per the focus of each survey)
* Focus on quick turn-out
* An enumerator-led phone survey, as an alternative it can also be a self-reported survey using an online survey tool; former will provide more reliable data
* If enumerator led, every respondent will have a unique ID
* Challenges:
  + Finding a representative group at state level; might be possible to achieve one at a district level
  + Ensuring that same set of school principals respond to the survey each time
  + Attrition can be a major issue (we may want to sample 400 principals expecting 50% will respond to each survey)
  + Survey fatigue