

Rapid Survey on Corona Impact on Primary School Going Children

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1.1: Introduction

Corona virus 2019 [COVID–19] pandemic has been a shock to the world. It has affected all over the country including Thakurgaon district. Corona virus exposes and exploits the inequality that defines our society. It exploits inequality between rich and poor. In the already poor and weak health system, the poor people are more likely to be drowned in debts. Inequality for women who are in insecure and poorly paid jobs is alarming. It has noted that primary school going students also one of the most affected group due to the Corona situation. We all deeply need one another to fight this virus. Pandemic and economic crisis can be solved by unity and cooperation. It is only through solidarity that we can achieve victory against this virus and other crisis coming our way. Cooperation is urgently needed on economic front too. Given the nature of our economy and of supply chain, we need a clear country plan of action and we need it implement fast and transparently. We wish to express our encouragement to all individuals, communities, civil society members, private sector and government authorities at all levels working day and night to beat the virus and extend our solidarity with survivors and those affected by it.

Considering the ESDO's Value 'Children First' we have conduct this rapid study for preparing an outline to protect children from existing worst situation.

1.2: Objective of the Rapid Survey

- i) To understand the present situation of primary school going students.
- ii) To identify any correlation in between Covid vs Child Labour
- iii) Existing support mechanism for Childs.
- iv) Prepare Recommendation for next course of action.

1.3: Materials, methods and Study Area

We used a combine method of both primary and secondary data to develop and illustrate the rapid study.

The primary data was collected from 25 numbers of government primary school under 05 Upazillas of Thakurgaon District.

The data was collected through the following methods:

1. Direct Interview with Child:

Total 64 students directly interviewed and strictly followed WHO health Protocol within the period of data collection. In addition, consent from child and their parents ensured in earlier. The Respondent information has given the Table:01

Table:01: Primary Respondents Information including geographical information:

Upazilla	Number of Student	Gender	
		Boy	Girl
Thakurgaon Sadar	23	23	8
Ranisankail	10	5	5
Balidangi	10	10	0
Pirganj	10	3	7
Haripur	11	7	4
Total	64	48	24

2. Focus Group Discussion

05 Focus Group Discussion also conduct in 05 Upazillas and strictly followed health protocol. Teacher, Parents, NGO workers, Employers, LGI representatives and General people participated and given their opinion through FGDs. Details information has given Table:02

Table:02: FGD participant's information:

Upazilla	Number of FGD	Number of participants with Gender segregation	
		Male	Female
Thakurgaon Sadar	3	32	8
Ranisankail	1	11	3
Balidangi	1	12	4
Pirganj	1	16	4
Haripur	1	9	2
Total	07	80	21

3. Secondary Data Review:

Different news paper. Covid and health related government Information, Primary School related information also reviewed for this survey.

4. Observation: Physical observation also considered for this survey.

1.4: Human Resource & Duration

A total 20 ESDO staffs directly involved with this study under the direct supervision of Researcher. The Rapid Survey conducted within the period of 2nd and 3rd week of July,2020.

1.5: Major Findings:

a) Primary Schools Students engagement within corona period.

Through the direct interview with 64 students, 54 respondents mention that they are not involved with any economic work and 10 students are involved with economic activities in outside of the house. It has noted that 15.6% children already engaged in child labour.

Table:03: Primary Schools Students engagement within corona period:

SI No	Upazilla	Number of Student	Gender		any work out side or studies in house)?	
			Boy	Girl	Any work out side	studies in house
1	Thakurgaon Sadar	23	23	8	6	17
2	Ranisankail	10	5	5	1	9
3	Balidangi	10	10	0	3	7
4	Pirganj	10	3	7	0	10
5	Haripur	11	7	4	0	11
Total		64	48	24	10	54

b) Reasons for involvement in Child labour

It has noted that 15.6% children already engaged in child labour. It has also observed that within the 15.6% child, 60% children involved with child labour due to their family crisis.

Table:04: Reasons for involvement in Child labour:

Why is he involve with work		%
Is it economical problem of his father during covid	Is he involved it any work before	
4	2	26%
0	1	10%
2	1	30%
0	0	0%
0	0	0%
6	4	16%

c) Findings from FGDs

The following findings identified by the FGD participants:

- i) There is no special support provided for the children within the corona period.
- ii) Due to extreme poverty most of students nothing opportunity of any distance learning course (like Facebook, Television)
- iii) At least 30% students forget their learning.
- iv) Ethnic minorities and day labour family's income opportunities significantly reduced and as a result a significant portion of students forced became child labour.
- v) There is very limited probability to return the child labours again enrolled to the school.
- vi) Health awareness specially covid preparation not significant in all stage.
- vii) Households income opportunities day to day reduced and if the corona Situation longer the number of students will more vulnerable and increase the number of child labour.

1.6: Recommendation:

- i) Need to special vigilance for vulnerable students' families.
- ii) Need to provide different support including livelihoods, health and awareness.
- iii) Special Counselling with parents and LGIs for protection mechanism.
- iv) Linkage with Government Support
- v) Introduce Community based monitoring mechanism and activating different agencies.