



## OPINION OF PARENT'S REGARDING SCHOOL REOPENING AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THEM DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE IN THE PANDEMIC OF COVID - 19.

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### KEYWORDS :

#### INTRODUCTION:-

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 12, 2020. On March 18, 2020, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization reported that 107 nations have adopted COVID-19-related nationwide school closures, affecting 862 million children and young people, or about half of the world's student population. [1] Globally it is estimated that education of 90% students is severely disrupted due to Covid-19 pandemic. [2] It was found that children are less likely to capture infection of covid-19 person as compared to adults. [3]

School's not only focuses on educational, mental growth of students but also physical development is also taken care of. Due to school closure, students are lagging in potential lifelong implications. Children from low-income families are more likely to go hungry as a result of missing subsidized school meals, they can face domestic abuse, poverty caused by parents who are unable to work due to daytime caring duties of their children. [3]

The greatest impact of pandemic was shown on children education they are totally relies on internet, mobile laptop etc. parents are paying too much to manage gadgets for children to continue their study. Many parents are facing challenges due to loss of jobs or their earning sources. [4] Many countries have closed schools and kindergartens to minimize COVID-19, but the role that children play in disease transmission is unclear. [5]

All other physical educational services are shut down, support from babysitters and grandparents were minimal, and peer contact is prohibited. Many parents must also work smartly, managing time and space while working with children. Quarantine has increased the amount of time spent with loved ones, but it has also put a major strain on parents, who are expected to take an educational role while also trying to live their own lives and meet their daily work duties. This situation has increased the probability of parents experiencing stress and negative emotions, which could negatively impact their children's well-being. [6]

#### Need of the Study

Post-traumatic stress disorder was found to be four times higher in children who had been quarantined than in those who had not. [7]

Fear, clutching, inattention, and irritability were the most severe symptoms for younger children in a preliminary study conducted in China during the COVID-19 epidemic, with fear, clinging, inattention, and irritability being the most severe symptoms for younger children. [8].

The environment of school and home acts as microsystem,

parent's behavior acts as the meo-system in development of child. [9]

The actions taken by Government of India to prevent the spread of Covid-19 disease affected society profoundly. The major impact of government decision about closing of school, where face to face teaching was suspended by the school and online teaching was started. This imposes substantial costs on people across the community to provide internet facilities, purchasing of new android mobile phone for their children. Suddenly mode of teaching is shifted. Parents and students had to adjust with the new situation and no one was clear about duration of adjustment. Previously parent's educational role for their children was restricted towards getting the homework done but in present scenario parents have to be with their children throughout the school especially for primary students (toddlers and pre-schoolers). Also children cannot be left alone with the gadgets as they are getting more addicted to the adverse effect of YouTube, other gaming apps etc.

In order to know actual problems and challenges faced by parents and their opinion regarding school reopening the researcher thought of conducting a survey.

#### Problem Statement:

Opinion of parent's regarding school reopening and challenges faced by them due to school closure in the pandemic of Covid-19.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To assess the problems of parents related to school closure in covid-19 pandemic situations.
- To find-out the opinion of parents related to school reopening in covid 19 pandemic situations.
- To find out the association between problems faced by parents due to school closure with their selected demographic variables.

#### Operational Definition:

##### Problems:

In our study problems refers to the unwelcomed situation encountered by the parents needing to be dealt with and overcome.

##### Parents:

In our study parents refers to mother or a father of a school going child between the ages of 5-15 year.

##### School closure-

In our study school closure refers totally shut downs of schools by the government due to covid-19.

##### School reopening -

In our study school reopening means opening of schools after lockdown.

**Scope of Study:**

- A survey to find out problems faced by parents due to shut down of school will be helpful to rule out common problems and how it could be over-come.
- A survey to find out Parents views on reopening of school will be helpful for schools and parents to make proper decision.
- It will also assist parents in understanding their shortcomings, allowing them to prepare something fun and engaging for their children.
- It will also assist the school in planning and overcoming education-related issues experienced by parents and children, as well as preparing for the school's re-opening.
- This research can help the government make decisions on school re-openings,
- This research also helpful for conduct further research.

**Assumption:**

- Parents may have faced problems related to closing of school
- Opinion of parents on re-opening of school may vary.
- Problems faced by parents may be different depending on family type, culture parents working status and child's grasping pattern and behavior.
- Problems faced by parents may vary from child to child.

**Research Approach:**

Descriptive Survey Approach.

**Research Design:**

Non experimental descriptive survey design

**Setting of The Study:**

The research was conducted online using a Google form on parents of children aged 5 to 15 years old.

**Population**

Parents of children between the age group of 5-15 year.

**Target Population**

Parents whose children are between the age group of 5-15 year who are using smart phone to fill up Google form

**Accessible Population**

Parents meeting the inclusive criteria

**INCLUSIVE CRITERIA-**

Parents with school going children between the age group of 5-15 year.

Both Parents are included.

Parents who are willing to participate in study.

**Sample Size**

Sample consists of 300

**Sampling Technique**

Non probability convenience sampling technique

**Tools for Data Collection:**

**Tool of data collection consist of three sections:**

**Section I:** consist of demographic variables of parents Like Age, Gender, type of family, parents qualification, parents working status, parents place of working, hours of working, child's age etc.

**Section II:**

**It consists of three point likert scale having statements in following areas:**

- Behavioural changes in child
- Parents problems
- Difficulties in education/learning
- Child's health issues

**Section III:**

Open ended question on view regarding reopening of school.

**Data Collection Procedure:**

The Google form was prepared and samples were approached through Social media during the period of October 2021-November 2021.

**Analysis and Interpretation:**

The analysis was done with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics. The analysis and interpretation of the data collected from 300 Parents, faced problems due to school closure. Analysis and interpretation was done on the basis of objectives of the study.

**Section –I**

**Table 1: Distribution of subjects according to their demographic variables: N=300**

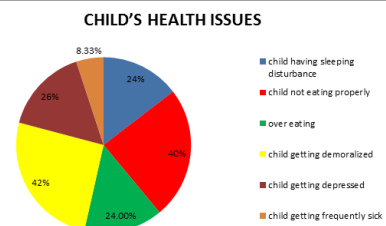
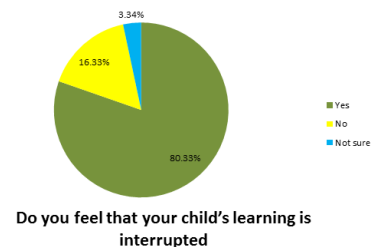
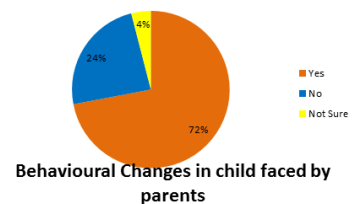
Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
<b>AGE(YRS)</b>		
20-25	4	1.34%
25-30	40	13.3%
30-35	93	31%
35-40	163	54.3%
<b>GENDER</b>		
Male	110	36.67%
Female	190	63.33%
<b>TYPE OF FAMILY</b>		
Joint Family	125	41.6%
Nuclear Family	175	58.3%
<b>PARENTS QUALIFICATION</b>		
Matriculation	8	2.67%
Higher secondary	22	7.33%
Graduation	173	57.6%
Post-Graduation	97	32.3%
<b>PARENTS WORKING STATUS</b>		
Single parent	146	48.66%
Both parents	154	51.33%
<b>PARENTS PLACE OF WORK DURING LOCKDOWN</b>		
Both parents working from home	111	37%
Single parent working from home	114	38%
Both work from office	43	14.3%
Single work from office	32	10.6%
<b>HOURS OF WORKING</b>		
4-6	32	10.66%
6-8	71	23.67%
8-10	120	40%
10-12	77	25.66%
<b>Childs Age</b>		
5-8	89	29.67%
8-11	99	33%
11-14	112	37.3%
<b>Were you infected by covid-19?</b>		
Yes	80	26.66%
No	220	73.34%

**Table no.2 Table Showing Each Question Views Of Parents For The Problems Faced By Them N=300**

SR.NO	STATEMENT	YES	NO	NOT SURE
<b>BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES</b>				
1	Changes in child's behaviour	216 (72%)	72 (24%)	12 (4%)
2	Child withdrawn from regular activities	210 (70%)	70 (23.34%)	20 (6.66%)
3	Child is losing contact with family and facing social isolation	90 (30%)	188 (62.67%)	22 (7.33%)

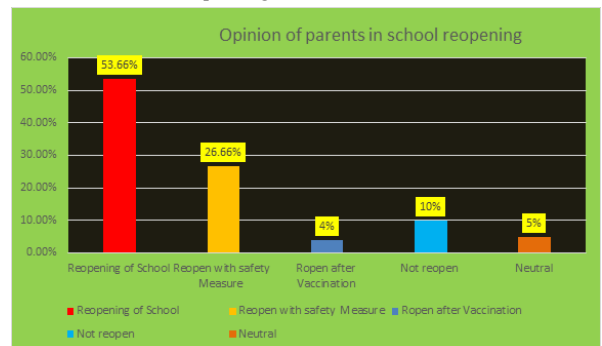
4	Child is getting more attached to media	217 (72.33%)	75 (25%)	8 (2.67%)
<b>PARENTS PROBLEMS</b>				
1	Do you lack attention on your child due to your work schedule?	139 (46.33%)	155 (51.67%)	6 (2%)
2	Do you lack in providing care to your child	94 (31.33%)	191 (63.67%)	15 (5%)
3	Did you feel high economic burden due to covid-19.	174 (54%)	102 (34%)	24 (8%)
4	Did you find yourself agitated due to your child routine or behaviour	168 (56%)	100 (33.33%)	32 (10.67%)
<b>DIFFICULTIES IN EDUCATION/LEARNING</b>				
1	Do you feel you were ever stressed due to your child's online classes	176 (58.67%)	110 (36.66%)	12 (4%)
2	Did you face issues in connecting and learning media for online classes	170 (56.66%)	118 (39.33%)	12 (4%)
3	Do you feel that your child's learning is interrupted	241 (80.33%)	49 (16.33%)	10 (3.34%)
4	Do you feel difficulty in helping your child attend online classes	150 (50%)	136 (45.33%)	14 (4.66%)
5	Did you find difficulty in creating study environment	202 (67.34%)	88 (29.33%)	10 (3.33%)
6	Do you feel difficulty in adjusting self to new education system	161 (53.67%)	114 (47%)	25 (8.33%)
7	Did you find home schooling child was challenging	248 (82.67%)	44 (14.66%)	8 (2.66%)
8	So you feel that child's attention span is decreased during this period	244 (81.33%)	40 (13.33%)	16 (5.33%)
9	Did you find difficulty in administering seriousness of examination	225 (85%)	60 (20%)	15 (15%)
10	Do you have to assist you child during online classes?	164 (54.66%)	127 (42.33%)	9 (3%)
11	If yes was it always manageable for you?	118 (39.33%)	138 (46%)	44 (14.66%)
<b>CHILD'S HEALTH ISSUES</b>				
1	Child having sleeping disturbance	72 (24%)	221 (73.66%)	7 (2.33%)
2	Child not eating properly	120 (40%)	172 (57.33%)	8 (2.66%)
3	Over eating	72 (24%)	224 (74.66%)	4 (1.33%)
4	Child getting demoralized	126 (42%)	147 (49%)	27 (9%)
5	Child getting depressed	78 (26%)	198 (66%)	24 (8%)
6	Child getting frequently sick	25 (8.33%)	261 (87%)	14 (4.66%)
<b>VIEWS ON REOPENING OF SCHOOL</b>				

1	Do you agree that opening of school will be good for you and your child?	248 (82.66%)	20 (6.66%)	32 (10.66%)
2	Are you worried about safety of your child?	222 (74%)	58 (19.33%)	20 (6.66%)



### Section III

This section deals with qualitative data of opinion of parents related to school reopening



Qualitative data was analyzed by narrative analysis method in this researcher grouped data in five areas which are as follows along with its results

1. In favour of Reopening of school 161(53.66%).
2. Reopen with proper safety measure 80(26.66%)
3. Should reopen but after children are vaccinated 12(4%).
4. School should not reopen 30(10%)
5. Neutral 15(5%)

**In open ended question regarding school reopening following statements are recorded which are as follows:**

**Statements in favour of school reopening are as follows:**

- School is most important for students because it teaches valuable lesson for life.
- Schools should re- open soon as there is a parallel pandemic going on due to students losing out on social interaction in their formative years.

- If the school is started, the intellectual and physical development of the children will be better.
- Parents suggested that Safety measures to be maintained throughout the session. Maintaining class and washroom cleanliness will help to keep everyone safe and secure.
- School should reopen but with all safety measures to be followed

#### Statements which are not in favour of school reopening are as follows:

- Who will take responsibility if child suffer from any infection is school management able to take then we are ready to send child to school. But I saw many parent don't follow hygiene, in case this should not happen but if any child got infected who will be responsible just for money don't play with children's life. School management are getting fees regularly don't create panic situations for you and for parents.
- Children should be vaccinated on priority to have the schools re-open.
- No until children's are vaccinated.

#### DISCUSSION:

According to a survey of 2,000 parents, 70% of parents admit to being stressed when their children are at home. They are unable to concentrate on their work, rush to attend meetings, and are frequently yelled at by their bosses, parents, and others. They also find it difficult to communicate with others over the phone. (Organization, n.d.)[10]

Closure of school was worldwide and its impact is seen on parents as well as children. Situation remains uncertain at all the time as yet schools are not open and no one knows when conditions will become normal as before.

There are evidences which states that children are at lower risk of acquiring and transmitting the infection. School management are ready to open school with all safety measures and majority of parents are of opinion that school must reopen so it is recommended that school should reopen with all safety measures.

#### CONCLUSION:

School is a vital part of a child's development and progress. Children are the heart of the family, and parents place a premium on their safety, development, and education. According to parents, the situation caused significant changes in the life of their children. Hindrance in growth and development of child can cause stress among parents so it is advised that school should reopen.

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#### Conflict of Interest:

Authors have declared no conflict of interest exist

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