

Hundreds of thousands of students drop out from school due to the pandemic in Mexico

More than 400 thousand students could not complete the school year 2019 - 2020 in Mexico, the main reason was that they did not have contact with their teachers, as reported by INEGI

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria in the Network of Education, part of its Welfare Ecosystem, promotes programs with the objective of discouraging school drop-out during the pandemic. It helps students to get computers, tablets or cellphones, and also to have access to the internet and educational platforms.



The COVID-19 sanitary contingency caused a social lockdown with the objective of avoiding the spread of the virus. As a consequence, schools were closed so students had to take online classes.

This situation caused that 435 thousand students in Mexico could not complete the school year in 2019 - 2020, as reported on the Survey to Measure the Impact of COVID-19 on Education (ECOVIED-ED) performed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

Most students could not complete the school year as they lost contact with their teachers, or they could not do their homework as a consequence of COVID-19. In other cases, somebody at home lost his/her job, or their incomes reduced as a consequence of the pandemic; while in other cases their school closed permanently.

States lagging behind	% with access to the internet	States making progress	% with access to the internet
• San Luis Potosí	62.4%	• Sonora	72.1%
• Yucatán	63.8%	• Mexico City	71.4%

Source: Department of Strategic Communication

Reasons for school drop-out due to COVID-19

28.8% Do it either for losing contact with the teacher or because they were not able to do their homework

28.8% Somebody at home lost his/her job or their incomes reduced

22.2% The school closed operations permanently

17.7% Did not have computers or devices to connect to the internet

16.6% Other reasons (the school was temporarily closed, among others)

15.4% Consider that distance learning is not functional for learning

14.6% The father, the mother, or the person in charge of following-up was not able to supervise the student

Mexican have access to the internet by using cellphones

In the results of the survey performed by the INEGI, they highlighted that the use of cellphones is the most popular technology in the country with a number of 86.5 million users. Women use the cellphone more (44.7 millions) than men (41.8 millions).

In 2019 it is expected that 75.1 percent of the population who are cellphone users, 88.1 percent have at least one smartphone, 10.9 percent a regular cell phone, and 1 percent both kinds of devices.

CMT actions in favor of education during the pandemic

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C (CMT) in the Network of Education, part of its Welfare Ecosystem, develops integral solutions in matters of connectivity and internet for students who either do not have an internet connection at home or they do not own a computer or cell phone.

One of the examples is the Program of Supportive Contribution to Technology that CMT developed to foster the right to education through having access to electronic and communication devices.

This way, subsidies were given to contribute to the access to electronic devices and connectivity to students who live in geographic areas whose main characteristics are margination and social backwardness.

Through the model of civic co-responsibility, CMT provides subsidies to get specific devices. It is possible to get devices such as desktop computers, laptops, tablets, cellphones, or telecommunication systems.

One of the first institutions that could have access to that program was a public high school called "Preparatoria Federal por Cooperación (PREFECO) 'Melchor Ocampo'" in Morelia, Michoacán; where 700 computers and 100 tablets were delivered. From that moment on, several schools and municipalities could benefit the students living in the area.

Moreover, CMT promotes a Program of Connectivity aiming to help students to have access to technology and data to get connected; by providing subsidies, incentives, and other kinds of economic support.

The beneficiaries are students, teachers, workers and entrepreneurs with low incomes who are not able to get connected to the internet in order to facilitate the development of their educational activities.

Even when dozens of municipalities use the program, the specific case of Durango is important to mention as they developed the program "Conéctate" to discourage school drop-out during the pandemic. The local government and CMT offer internet connection to students who need it, as well as technological devices.

This is the way Congregación Mariana Trinitaria offers support to students with the objective of encouraging them to continue with their studies, as CMT knows that education is the key to combat poverty.

An old problem

When schools were closed to control the spread of COVID-19, it seems that the fact that barely 56.4 percent of homes had an internet connection available was not taken into consideration, according to data from the National Survey on Availability and Use of Technologies of Information at Home (ENDUTIH) performed by the INEGI.

Thousands of parents had to buy a computer and get internet service at home, which meant a big debt for most of them. In other cases, the most of them, the service was not available in the area, and they had to buy cell phones with internet connection with a company or using pre-payment services.

According to ENDUTIH, 80.6 million people over six years old in Mexico used internet services (70.1 percent of the population) in 2019, a higher number compared to the one in 2018 (65.8 percent).

It is important to mention that internet access in urban and rural areas shows a difference of 28.9 percentage points, as the results show 76.6 percent in urban areas and 47.7 percent in rural areas.

States lagging behind	% with access to the internet	States making progress	% with access to the internet
• Guerrero	49.1%	• Baja California Sur	84.0%
• Zacatecas	52.8%	• Nuevo León	81.5%
• Oaxaca	55.1%	• Baja California	80.4%
• Hidalgo	56.1%	• Quintana Roo	75.8%
• Michoacán	56.8%	• Campeche	72.9%
• Puebla	59.0%	• Querétaro	72.7%
• Tlaxcala	59.4%	• Tabasco	72.5%
• Durango	59.7%	• Tamaulipas	72.5%

