



Classrooms still have to be empty

Although coming back to classes triggered enthusiasm during the last semester in 2021, nowadays the classrooms must be empty due to the considerable increase of COVID-19 infections.

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In Latin America there are 14 million children and teenagers completely outside the educational system, according to numbers provided by public schools in 2018.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and based on the numbers provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), we can observe that at least

71 million children and teenagers were affected after closing schools in Latin America and the Caribbean.



- 3.6 million children are not enrolled in elementary schools.
- 2.8 million children old enough to start their studies in secondary schools, are completely outside educational systems.
- 7.6 million children old enough to complete their secondary studies are outside the educational system.

How many children are there in that area?



Only in Latin America and the Caribbean we can find 193 million children and teenagers; according to the study "Overview 2018" developed by UNICEF.

Going back to school... is that really necessary?



In different parts of the world people came back to school thanks to different protocols promoted by institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO), but due to the outbreak of new variants in 2021 the original plans of going back to school look like an old story from the past.

a guarantee, going back to schools seems almost impossible. Life must be a priority.

Several experts in education mentioned that it was necessary to go back to schools because the interaction in classrooms fosters social skills. However, in environments where protection for children and teenagers through vaccination and the neutralization of the effects caused by the pandemic are not

Reducing safety measures to prevent infections caused by COVID-19 is not an option so the only safe environment to improve and promote welfare among children and teenagers is the implementation of online education. Infrastructure must be improved, digital connectivity gaps must be reduced, and internet connection must be provided until all people have devices to take active part in online classes successfully.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, governments around the world had to make decisions in order to protect children and teenagers studying in different schools. Those actions included the suspension of in-person classes, the inclusion of hybrid mo-

odels to teach, and the implementation of online classes. Nevertheless, those facts showed how vulnerable the educational system is in countries lacking infrastructure to apply those instructional models.

The situation in Mexico

Mexico implemented the program "Learning at Home", which consisted on making reviews of the contents in elementary school syllabuses using traditional means of communication like TV and radio, which also used different complements such as workbooks downloadable at official websites. After that, teachers would be able to give feedback using virtual classrooms like Goo-

gle Classroom, or through direct chats using apps like WhatsApp or Telegram.

Nonetheless, the country is unable to provide the same level of attention because some students live in areas with no coverage, and they got lost on the way despite the hard attempts made by Mexican teachers.

In countries like the USA or the European Community, the governments decided to acquire devices, software, and apps to guarantee education for everybody. This is the only way to keep the pace for future generations and to allow continuity on the activities performed by teachers.

rous decision made considering the increase of infections caused by the Omicron variant.

In Mexico, decisions like the implementation of the model "Learning at Home" and taking children back to school in some states, were not enough; conversely, it was a dange-

After all that, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria developed the program "Supportive Contribution to CMT Technology and Connectivity", whose objective is providing services and enough devices to surf the web, particularly to allow people to continue with their educational processes.