



Summary

A Survey on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Young People and Their Needs: Online Survey Conducted between 28 March and 10 April 2020

1. Summary

This online survey is the cooperation among Children and Youth Council of Thailand, UNICEF, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA). The survey was conducted on impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on children, youth and young people aged under 30 years to obtain data needed urgently to allow both public and private sectors, The United Nations and relevant agencies to understand the situation and the genuine needs of children and young people residing in Thailand and to provide immediate supports both during and after COVID-19 pandemic.

This survey was conducted online between 28 March and 10 April 2020. Survey questionnaire was distributed using networks of Children and Youth Council of Thailand including partnership networks of UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA with the aim to reach as many children and all groups of young people in Thailand as possible. However, the survey was conducted online only and thus could not reach children and groups of young people who do not have internet access.

The survey collected data from 6,771 young people covering 77 provinces across Thailand. Most of respondents aged 15 – 19 years old.

Key findings of this survey include:

- 1) Almost all children and young people who responded to the survey questionnaire knew how to protect themselves from coronavirus. About half of the respondents thought they may to some extent be infected with the virus while one-third of the respondents thought that they had 50 percent chance of becoming infected. Fifty-six percent of children and young people expressed concerns that not everyone in their household had enough virus protection supplies such as masks and hand sanitiser while 6.5 percent said that they had none. Provincial findings revealed that Bangkok and central provinces are best prepared in terms of protection supplies while the North Region (9.55 percent) and the three southernmost provinces (15.24 percent) are the least prepared in terms of protection supplies for household use.

- 2) The survey on how children and young people spent their time during the lockdown revealed that most children and young people have more than five additional hours of free time per day. However, twenty-eight percent of the respondents said that they were not satisfied with the additional hours, 32 percent of the respondents felt indifferent while approximately 30 percent of the respondents most of which are children and young people aged under 15 years old said that they were satisfied with activities during the lockdown. Most of activities engaged by the respondents were online activities. Top five activities include: (i) watching online movies/ YouTube; (ii) Facebook/ Twitter browsing; (iii) general internet browsing; (iv) chores and (v) online gaming.
- 3) In terms of impacts, 23 percent of respondents who are in full-time and part-time jobs said that they had to leave their jobs while 5.57 percent of the respondents, particularly those aged between 20 and 24 years old and those residing in Bangkok districts had to relocate because of the situation.
- 4) The respondents expressed two levels of concerns that they felt for the impacts: (1) personal impacts and (2) far-reaching impacts on children and young people. Major concerns of children and young people are economic impacts on both their families and the society.

Personal Impacts and Concerns

1. **Concerns about financial difficulties of the family (80.74 percent)**
2. Concerns about education and examinations (53.98 percent)
3. Concerns about risks for themselves/those closed to them to be infected with the virus (52.55 percent)
4. Concerns about the opportunity to further their education (47.82 percent)
5. Stress caused from being quarantined in their houses (46.27 percent)

Impacts on and Concerns Felt for Children and Young People in General

1. **Financial status of families as their parents, guardians or young people themselves may not be able to work normally (84.66 percent)**
2. Mental health issues such as stress, boredom, lack of motivation and frustration caused by the lockdown (74.58 percent)
3. Disruption to normal education of children and young people leading to impact on educational efficiencies (65.77 percent)
4. Employment opportunities and future planning (51.91 percent)
5. Excessive use of internet leading to inappropriate browsing (35.73 percent)
- 5) The survey revealed the needs of children and young people to learn the following five topics:
 1. English language (60.61 percent)
 2. Knowledge that is relevant to their current education (51.90 percent)
 3. Recreational activities such as art, sports, music, e-sport, novel writing, cooking (39.34 percent)
 4. Healthcare (38.21 percent)
 5. Life skill and potential enhancements such as leadership development, communication skills and networking (37.68 percent)
- 6) Children and young people also expressed their needs in response to open-ended questions of the survey that they wish to have access to financial supports from the government such as financial relief package or financial supports to pay for tuition fees. They also expressed needs for more concrete information on how to plan their education, particularly for students who are

taking examinations for higher education or those who are graduating. Information needed from educational institutions for this group of respondents is study plans that need adjustment due to the situation.

- 7) The respondents expressed needs in terms of stress and mental health management for children and young people to manage their anxiety during the situation. The open-ended survey revealed that children and young people do not know or are unsure as to how they can manage stress or if there are services available to them to seek consultations.

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