



## my voice, OUR EQUAL FUTURE

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AFTER SCHOOL  
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This report briefly reviews the findings conducted by the girls of seven different municipalities of Kosovo, under the supervision of local mentors, before and during the event “International Girls Child Day” organized by IPKO Foundation with the support of the US Embassy and USAID - After School Support Program.

### **The purpose of the surveys:**

The survey is relevant on educational settings, how education is occurring during the crisis and emerging evidence on opportunity gaps during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to help reflect on future programming and design interventions for the needs of the girls around Kosovo.

### **Who & How?**

51 Girls from 7 Municipalities of Kosovo, age 14 to 18, engaged in a survey with the topic “*The effect of COVID- 19 in education system & beyond*”. With the help of the mentors, girls prepared survey questions with the topics related to the education setting. They learned techniques for doing research and used tools such as Google Forms, Slack, Endnote, Tadoist, ect.

### **Surveyed municipalities:**

1. Prishtina
2. Kacaniku
3. Lipjani
4. Janjeva
5. Fushe Kosove
6. Gjilan
7. Gjakove

## Findings from Municipality of Gjakova, Fushe Kosove & Kacanik

### Mental Health & Well-being during pandemic

The potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population mental health is of increasing global concern. The girls from above mentioned municipalities collectively examined the changes in students' mental health in the Kosovar population before and during the lockdown. In this research, collectively, there were 350 respondents whereas the key findings are as follows:

- 52.9% of respondents were under 18 years old. 70.3% were females.
- According to the survey, 52,7 % of respondents agreed that the hardest part of the pandemic situation was the isolation phase
- The main problem the students are currently facing, with 42.7 % of respondents, is Emotional state. Another almost as popular concern, with 40.7% of respondents, is the lack of physical contact

Cili ka qenë problemi kryesorë me të cilin jeni ballafaquar koheve të fundit si rezultat i COVID-19  
91 responses



- Most students, with 59.3% of respondents, take care of their mental health by engaging in physical activity. Whereas less popular choices in the following order are: Healthy eating, Taking care of others, staying in contact with friends and family, social media use, expressing emotions to family members.
- 46.2% of respondents feel they sometimes have worry due to the pandemic situation. Whereas 18.7% of respondents agree that they feel worried daily about the current situation.

### Suggestions:

1. Every school should have at least one psychologist addressing the needs of the student.
2. Establish clubs that would encourage virtual or physical activities.
3. Support each other emotionally to pass the monotony as easily as possible
4. Professors should continuously send learning material to online groups.

### Findings from Mitrovica Municipality:

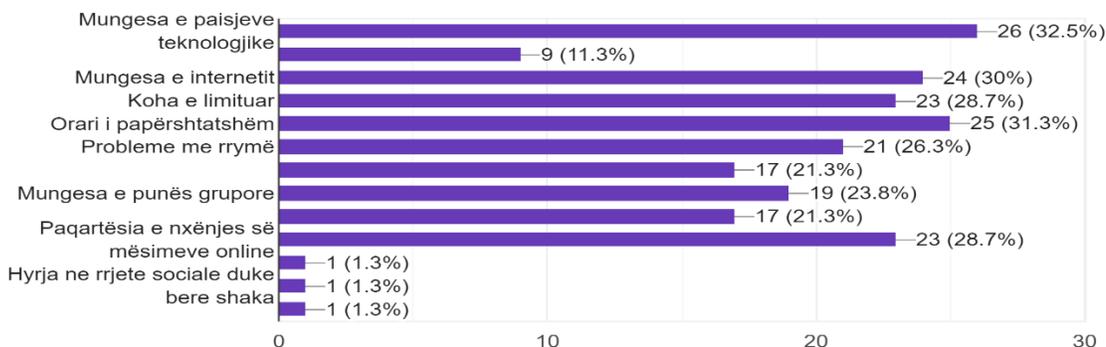
#### The impact of the pandemic for the preparation of 9th grades for High School Placement test.

This research aims to identify problems on the learning process during and after The Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the challenge of preparing for 9th grade High School Placement test and the impact it has on the students. From 80 respondents, the main findings are as follows:

- 79,5% go to school two times per week,
- 76,3% do not feel satisfied with the time spent in school in order to understand the lessons,
- 50% of the respondents are very satisfied with the evaluation of teachers during the conduct of the lesson,
- 36,3% of students are very dissatisfied with online learning, in RTK from Ministry of Education & Science,
- The biggest challenge student's face regarding online learning is the lack of technological equipment, with 32.5% of respondents.

11. Cilat janë sfidat për përmbushjen e kushteve të kapacitetit teknologjik për ndjekjes e mësimit online në ambientin e kushteve familjare?

80 responses



- The separation of class into groups is perceived as a good practice, with 50.6% of respondents agreeing.
- 67.5 % of respondents think that lack of intensive learning will have a negative impact on the preparation of the students for the High School Placement test.

*Suggestions:*

1. Establishment of preparatory groups for additional teaching for 9th grade.
2. Regular teaching schedule for 9th grade.
3. Increasing the duration of lessons.
4. Further research on student financial and health conditions for attending Online Learning.

**Findings from Municipality of Gjilan:**

The effect of the pandemic in the youth of Gijlan

The girls from the municipality of Gjilan explored the effect of the pandemic in its youth, while interviewing also the parents and directors of elementary school “Thimi Mitko” and gimnasium “ Xhavit Ahmeti”.

150 students were interviewed with the following key findings:

- 72% of the respondents did not have problems using online teaching platforms. The most used platforms were Zoom, followed by Google Classroom, Mesojmngashtepia and Viber.
- The survey question about the difficulty of doing homework shows that 7.4% of respondents found it difficult, whereas 28.2% thought it was not difficult at all.
- Regarding the help the students received while doing homework from their parents, the survey shows that 65% of the respondents never received any help, while 35% said they sometimes received help from their parents.
- The support from teachers came from daily communication, where 32% of respondents were in regular communication and 14% said they never communicate with the teachers.
- 85% of the respondents think that getting back to school was a good decision

50 parents were interviewed, the following findings were made:

- 56% of the respondents helped their children with learning for 4-6 hours per week.
- Mothers have been more active with supporting their children in the learning process, with 96% of respondents.
- Girls have given more importance to online learning than boys, with 96% of respondents.
- 87% of the respondents say that online learning has been effective.

2 school directors were interviewed, with the following key findings:

- Female teachers have been more active in online learning
- Female teachers have been more adaptive in the usage of online platforms
- Regulation and rules of Kosovo government regarding the pandemic are being respected
- Girls respect these rules more than boys.

### **Suggestions from Municipality of Prishtina:**

#### Challenges of Distant learning:

Gymnasium “Xhevdet Doda” was targeted for the survey of the challenges of Distance Learning, with 126 respondents. This research regarding online learning and teaching shows that they are effective only if students have consistent access to the internet and computers and if teachers have received targeted training and support for online instruction. Because these needed requirements for effectiveness have been largely absent for many, remote education during the pandemic has impeded teaching and learning

Reduced learning time has likely impeded student learning and also affected the development of the whole child. Once the pandemic allows it, we will need to make up for this time by increasing both the amount and quality of learning time—through extended schedules, summer enrichment and after-school activities, more personalized instruction, and staffing strategies that reduce class sizes and staff schools with sufficient and highly credentialed educators.

### **Findings from Janjeva Municipality:**

#### Prejudice toward women

The pandemic has exacerbated well-documented opportunity gaps that put low-income students at a disadvantage relative to their better-off peers. Opportunity gaps are gaps in access to the conditions and resources that enhance learning and development, and include access to food and nutrition, housing, health insurance and care, and financial relief measures.

## **Findings from Lipjan Municipality:**

### Coronavirus & how students spent their time under lockdown

Across the general students surveyed in Lipjan municipality, there was an increase in the time spent on entertainment, socializing and other free time. By far the most popular activity, with 63% respondents, was Music. Another activity almost as popular was contacting friends and family via social media channels with 61% respondents. These categories were far less popular: 47% of participants engaged in reading, 39% of participants did home exercise. 18% spent time creating art. While only 4% spent time watching films or using streaming services to cope with lockdown.

96% of respondents had a substantial change in the perceived value of time and health after quarantine.

## **Conclusion:**

Informed by interviews of the girls and discussions that happened on the day of the event “International Girls Child Day”2020 via Zoom, here is a plan for addressing the adverse impacts of COVID-19 on education and rebuilding stronger:

- Give schools urgent resources so that they can provide effective remote instruction and supports at scale during the pandemic.
- Provide extra investments to help students and schools make up lost ground as they return to in-school operations.
- Redesign the system to focus on nurturing the whole child, balancing cognitive with socioemotional skills development and ensuring that all children have access to the conditions and resources that enhance learning and development.