OUTL/NE
India

Rapid Survey to Assess Remote Learning at the School level in India during Covid-19

What did we learn from 11,200+ students and their parents/ teachers about remote learning during COVID-19 in India?
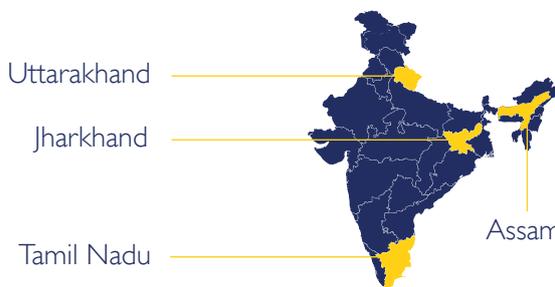
The study titled "Rapid Survey to Assess Remote Learning at the School level in India during Covid-19" was conducted in Sep-Dec 2020 by Outline India with due support from the Asian Development Bank. The aim was to understand the challenges specifically related to ICT-based learning tools and associated requirements, and the learning environment at home.

The Outline India team interacted with more than 11,200 students and their parents/interviews across four states in India via phone interviews.
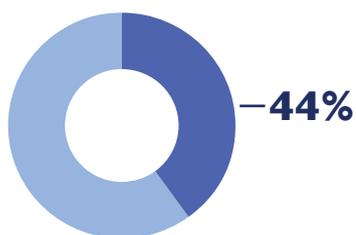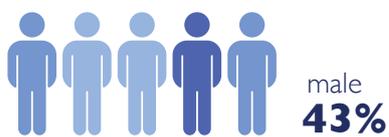
Here we share a glimpse of the on ground scenario and our insights based on the data collected.
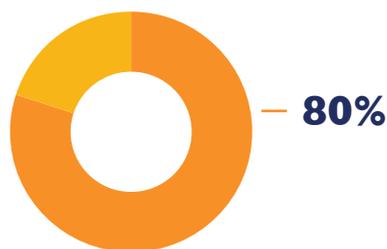
ADB

11,200+ respondents
4 states

Uttarakhand

Jharkhand

Assam

Tamil Nadu

The data depicted that 43.5% of the students interviewed were male and 56.5% students were female.

male
43%

female
56.5%

—**44%**

— **80%**

44% report that the father is primarily engaged in daily wage-earning activities

80% report that mothers are housewives.

Remote learning services during COVID-19

70% of respondents in Assam, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand report that there was provision of remote learning options at the district government's behest.

25% In Tamil Nadu the trend is reversed with only 25% of respondents reporting any form of district provided remote learning opportunity.

Respondents receiving remote learning services from their schools.

75%
Tamil Nadu

95%
Uttarakhand

90%
Jharkhand

83%
Assam

81% respondents report having been involved in some form of self-learning programme at home

85% of those who received school level remote learning opportunities respectively, report that they were engaged in remote learning

76% of those who received district level remote learning opportunities respectively, report that they were engaged in remote learning

It was also reported in most cases that attendance was initially very low at the onset of online classes, but over time this figure has only increased

Ownership and access of ICT infrastructure

98.49% of households have an electricity connection.

99% Mobile data is the source of the internet for the respondents

81% of households have internet connectivity.

91% of all respondents who had access to mobile data have 4G internet.

Access

37% Television

2% Radio

23% Featurephone

79% Smart phone

3% Desktop Laptop

2% Tablet

Barriers

25% identified lack of access to devices as an impediment

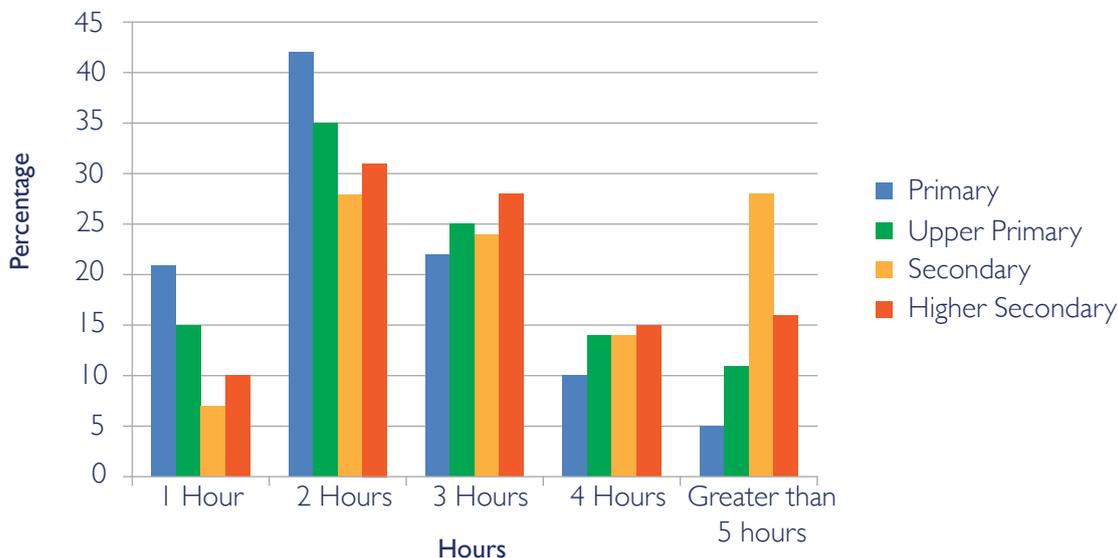**31%** said that their device was not advanced enough

31% said that it was difficult to learn from a small device such as a smartphone

36% said that there was only one device which stayed with the parents

Media and Content

35% of the students use YouTube as the most common medium for remote learning

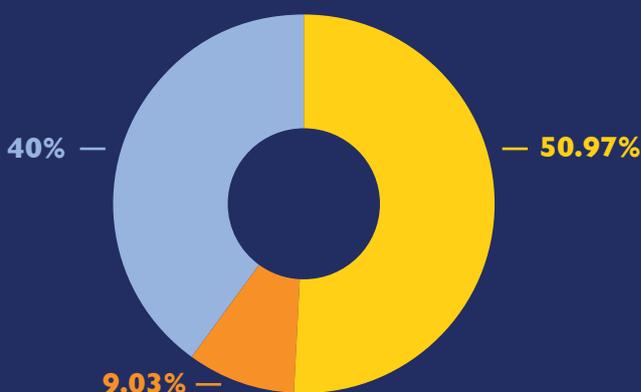**31%** of the students refer to WhatsApp as the most used source

Bar chart: Percentage (y-axis) vs Hours (x-axis), with series Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary.

- 1 Hour: Primary 21, Upper Primary 15, Secondary 7, Higher Secondary 10
- 2 Hours: Primary 42, Upper Primary 35, Secondary 28, Higher Secondary 31
- 3 Hours: Primary 22, Upper Primary 25, Secondary 24, Higher Secondary 28
- 4 Hours: Primary 10, Upper Primary 14, Secondary 14, Higher Secondary 15
- Greater than 5 hours: Primary 5, Upper Primary 11, Secondary 28, Higher Secondary 16

Communication and Monitoring

The teachers primarily used WhatsApp groups to carry out the teaching-learning process

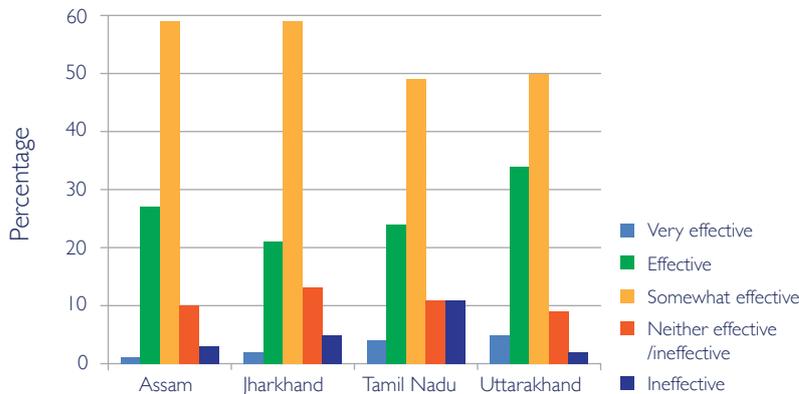Mode of communication from school administration/teachers' regarding online learning
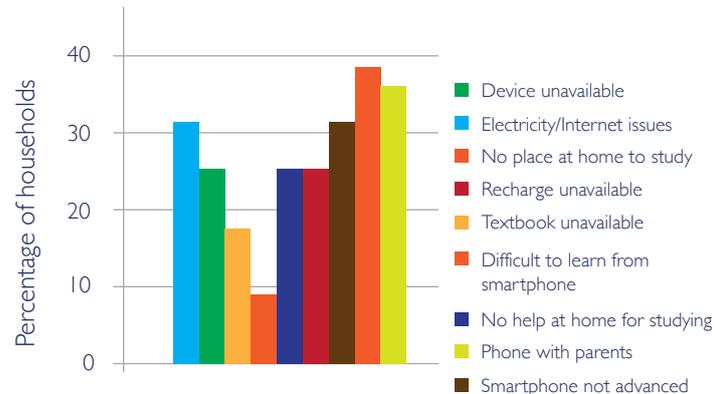

- 40% — Through teacher
- 50.97% — Over phone
- 9.03% — Broadcasting

Legend:
- Broadcasting
- Over phone
- Through teacher

Perceptions towards remote/ online learning

OUTLINE *India*

92% of the respondents were engaged in remote learning

Effectiveness of remote learning

Percentage (y-axis): 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60

States (x-axis): Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand

Legend:
- Very effective
- Effective
- Somewhat effective
- Neither effective /ineffective
- Ineffective

Barriers to effective learning at home

Percentage of households (y-axis): 0, 10, 20, 30, 40

Legend:
- Device unavailable
- Electricity/Internet issues
- No place at home to study
- Recharge unavailable
- Textbook unavailable
- Difficult to learn from smartphone
- No help at home for studying
- Phone with parents
- Smartphone not advanced

Preferred mode of engagement to continue remote learning.

zoom Google Meet WhatsApp

Recommendations

- Recording of sessions for convenience of students.
- Usage of a combination of Smartphones and TV for remote learning.
- School devising a strong monitoring and feedback system for fruitful remote learning.
- Capacity building programmes for teachers.
- Multiple medium for administering remote learning.

Excerpts from the field

Parents are valuing the remote classes

"….the parents are valuing the classes in general since they are worried about their children's education, and are happy that classes are still going on …."

- Teacher from Assam

Sharing of learning material on WhatsApp helps

"….It is easy to have learning material on WhatsApp as that allows the children to go through the material as per convenience and availability of device …."

- Guardian from Assam

In constant touch with students

"….I contacted the students for giving lessons, to monitor the students, for the admissions in the class for the next academic year. I also contacted the students to inform them about social distancing norms and how to follow them…."

- Teacher from Jharkhand

Attendance in Remote Learning Increasing

"….In offline learning almost 60-80% of the enrolled students attended classes but now the attendance is dependent on the guardians. Students can log in for the classes only when their parents allow them to use the smartphone…."

- Teacher from Jharkhand

Guidance is provided to the parents

"….The head teacher had even called for a meeting to motivate the parents to guide their children. Guidance is provided to the parents on a regular basis…."

- Parent from Uttarakhand