The cost of COVID-19 school closures in Sri Lanka

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School closures in Sri Lanka are 4\textsuperscript{th} longest in developing Asia

Share of instruction days closed, February 2020 - October 2021

How school closures affect learning

$LAYS = \text{Expected years of schooling} \times \text{Harmonized test scores}$

- More dropout
- Remote education effectiveness
- Remote education effectiveness
- Lower student learning

Effectiveness of remote education depends on **two independent factors**: Remote learning **efficacy** and remote learning **access**.
Learning losses are estimated to have reached 0.81 LAYS in Sri Lanka

Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022
Future earnings are projected to be 7.6% lower.

Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022
Poor students and girls suffered more than others

➢ Less access to remote education
➢ More likely to drop out because:
  ▪ More sensitive to income shocks
  ▪ Income shocks on poor families are bigger than those affecting richer students
Poorest quintile of students incurred 57% more learning loss than the richest quintile in Sri Lanka

Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022
Expected losses in future earnings are 55% higher for the poorest than for the richest students.

Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022
Girls incurred 6% more learning loss than boys in Sri Lanka

Source: Asian Development Outlook 2022
Learning losses can be recovered using strategies proven effective

- Consolidate curriculum
- Teach at student’s level
- Extend instructional time
- Encourage re-enrollment

- Individual tutoring
- Teaching assistants for small groups
- Re-grouping students
- Computer-assisted learning

- More hours per school day, more weeks per school term, weekend classes, or summer classes

Continuous teacher training

Measure learning levels