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Keeping Children Engaged in Distance Learning in the Philippines: Key Findings from the RECOVER Survey



RECOVER Policy Analysis Series

Introduction

To support government partners' initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IPA launched the Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVER) Survey, a rapid response panel survey it has conducted in nine countries including the Philippines. The RECOVER survey aims to directly inform key government partners on the health, economic, educational, and social ramifications of the pandemic.

This brief summarizes and presents key education results from the RECOVER Philippines Survey to provide decision-makers of the Department of Education (DepEd) with rigorous evidence in support of the implementation of the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) and policy recommendations based on the results. Key policy questions to consider are: 1) how can policymakers ensure that children do not fall behind in their education, and 2) how can policymakers help students be engaged in distance learning?

The Research

IPA Philippines conducted the RECOVER survey from 18 June to 1 July. The sample consisted of 1,389 respondents reached through Random Digit Dialing (RDD) of a nationally representative sample of phone numbers in the TNT network. As such, the survey is not nationally representative, but rather is representative of numbers in the network. Compared to 2015 Census averages, respondents in the survey are younger (32 years old vs. 52 years old), more female (70 percent vs. 49 percent), more urban (from the National Capital Region; 19 percent vs. 13 percent), and more educated (52 percent vs. 23 percent completed secondary school). Respondents came from comparable average household sizes (4.8 persons vs. 4.8 persons).

Findings

Respondents were most concerned about children falling behind in their education and children getting sick: When asked about their main concerns about school-age children (those in Grade 12 or below) at home, respondents said that they were mostly worried about children falling behind in their education (34 percent) and children getting sick (33 percent). Poorer and wealthier respondents were similarly likely to report these concerns.

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