

Connected Learning in a Disconnected Era

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The pandemic has sparked a huge increase in digital living and learning. What does this mean for this generation of children and young people? What about the millions of children who cannot get online? Leading Minds asks the experts about the impact of this online phenomenon on learning.

Students are resilient, but not by choice

Students of all ages have proven resilient to school closures and have adapted to online learning. But it is not by choice. Policymakers, educators, and caregivers should pay attention to how overwhelming the situation may be for many children and young people – and treat students, particularly those finishing secondary school or beginning tertiary education, with empathy and support.

Online learning – great equalizer or great divider?

Education has long been portrayed as the great equalizer in society. But it can also entrench inequality if there are big disparities in access to quality education. COVID lockdowns and school closures have widened the gaps in education between those who have been able to continue their learning online and those who have not. This will have reverberations on unemployment and inequality in the future.

A digital window into students' lives

Because of being constantly connected, educators now have a better picture of the life and pressures that learners face as they try to achieve education at a distance. While this has been a struggle for some, others are more comfortable online than in person. What appears universal is the potential and ability of young people to use technology creatively to learn.

WATCH THE RECORDING: [YOUTUBE.COM/UNICEFINNOCENTI](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFINNOCENTI) 



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We have experienced collective grief across the world yet we still have to write the same paper and learn at the same pace as before the pandemic.

Zulaikha Patel

Often people blame technology for children's mental health issues without looking at institutionalized practices like racism. Marginalized children in the US have said they want to continue online learning because schools were not working for them.

Mizuko Ito

Young people have taken centre stage in creating solutions to problems the pandemic has presented. But it is scary to look to the future because inequality is only rising.

Zulaikha Patel



Zulaikha Patel
South African student
and youth activist



Dr Mizuko 'Mimi' Ito
Director, Connected Learning Lab,
University of California - Irvine (USA)

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