



'Pandemic-induced *Learning Losses*'

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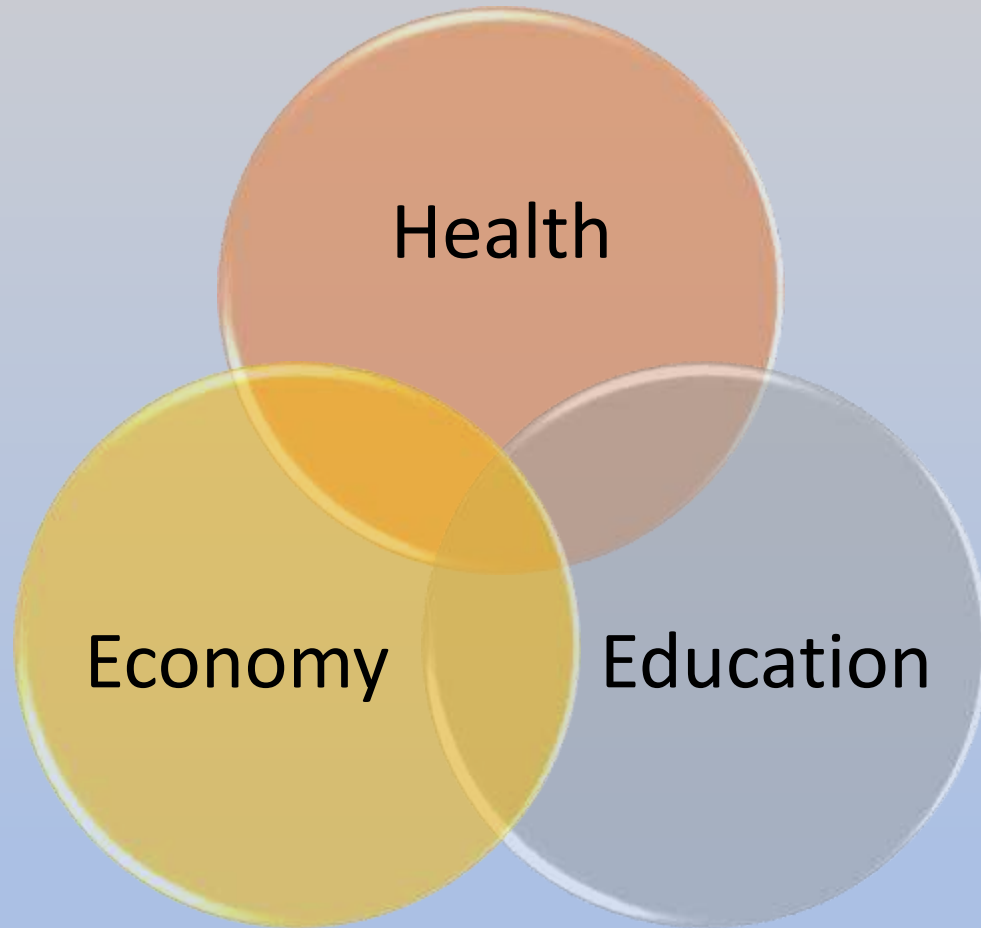
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“Invisible” Covid Crisis



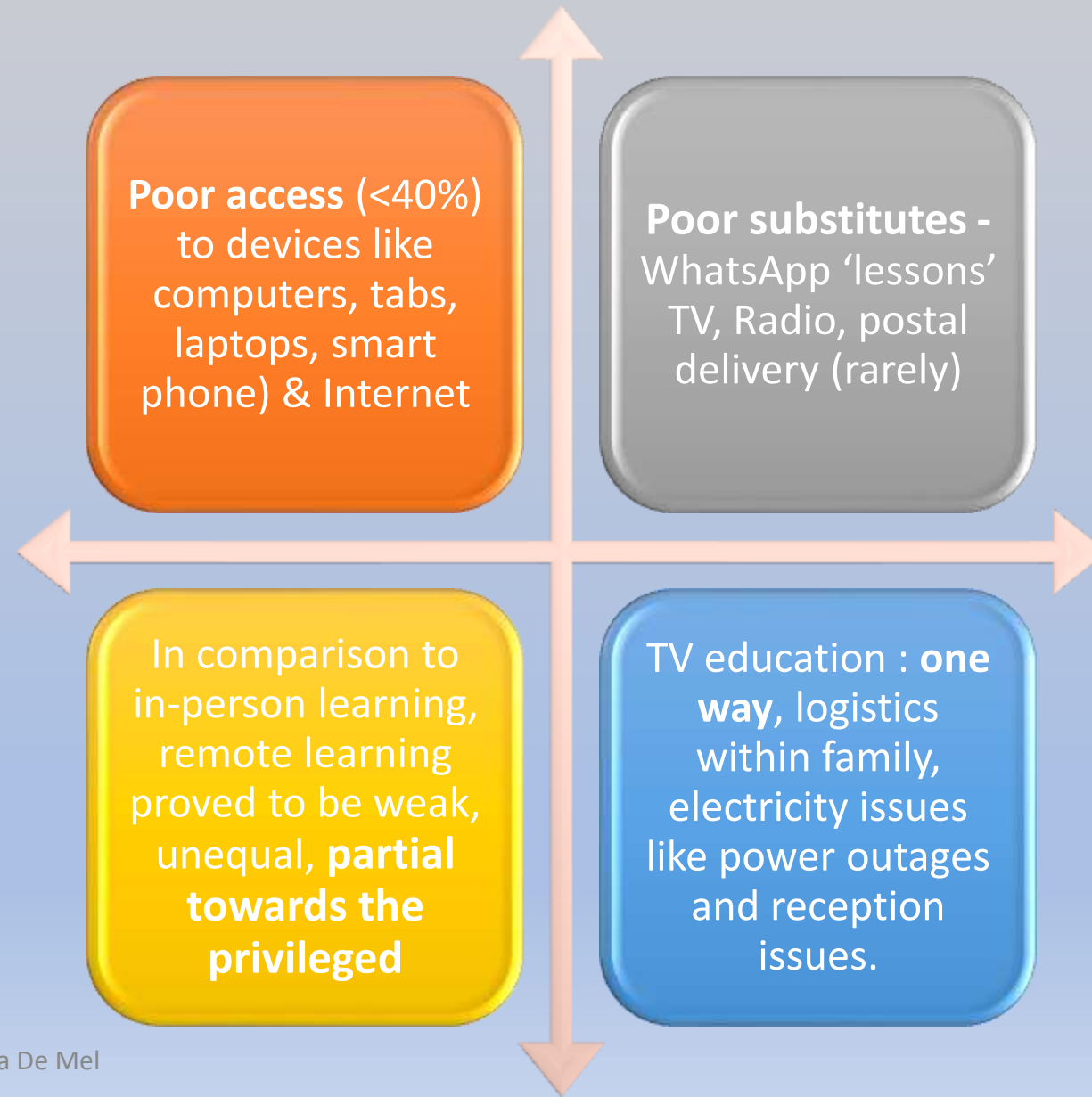
- **Education** was the most invisible, but will be most impactful long term. Education crisis will remain long after the other two have eased.
- Schools shuttered in 188 countries, 1.6 Billion children, 63 million teachers ‘ousted’ from education. Most countries 20 + months no school.
- Academic disruption, massive learning losses, cognitive fall-out, psycho-social and emotional challenges, stress & depression
- The pandemic amplified education inequalities, performance gaps & digital divide
- Increase in ‘school drop outs’. Undetected self-ouster from digital or internet-based education
- Biggest crisis in education in a century

Is it necessary to understand the gravity & quantify *learning losses*?

Definition: the learning expected to take place at a particular Grade/age is measurably less, than if schools were kept open.

- Without measurement it's hard to understand depth & breadth, and in which subject domains, learning losses are highest. Varies with individuals.
- March 2020 student in Grade 3 → November 2021 Grade 4 → July 2022 Grade 5
- Teachers not trained to recover losses & to measure academic recovery.
- Catch-up learning & remedial teaching are essential
- Long-term fallout can be a generation of under-educated youth

Was remote learning effective in Sri Lanka?



Was remote learning favorable to teachers?

- No training to shift to remote learning
- Poor pedagogical skills & digital literacy. No equipment, devices, internet access.
- Stress, mental health issues
- No emergency preparedness for education, no institutional support, allowances.
- Not enthused, incentivized & encouraged in pandemic education

Digital Learning

- Most glaring issue was lack of opportunities for Digital Learning
- Countries with low/medium-tech access suffered the most. Underestimating the importance of universalization of DL through system-wide changes.
- When in-person learning resumed, DL emerged the new frontier in education
- What is Digital Learning? What is Digital Literacy?
- Why are Digital skills important, today more than before?
- 21st Century Skills and Competencies, needed for 4IR – Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Teachers need to be DL-equipped to teach students
- Are today's school children ready to face *future-jobs*?

Post-pandemic academic recovery :

Role of Digital Learning

- Innovation in DL, is a key enabler of transition to education normalcy,
- Driving sector-wide change & improving access to quality learning opportunities
- Initiatives on DL focus on developing multiple types of skills – **foundational, digital, transferable and job-specific skills which can be accessed by the majority of students.**
- **Impoverished/marginalised communities** in low-income countries – **need prioritization.**
- For millions of students **to leapfrog into fast-paced, digitized and interconnected economies, opportunities for peer-learning needed.**
- Inter-nation cooperation, overcoming country-specific barriers, **public, private and development partners, are all imperative.**
- **Countries can learn from one another on using digital technologies to improve access and expand education.** Whilst in-person learning using face-to-face teaching-learning methods is the hall-mark of conventional education delivery, **DL facilitates a quantum shift in learning**



Thank you!

