The Digital Divide in Distance Education During the Covid-19 Pandemic & Innovative Interventions at the Sabaragamuwa Province in Sri Lanka

:A Case Study in Practitioners Perspective

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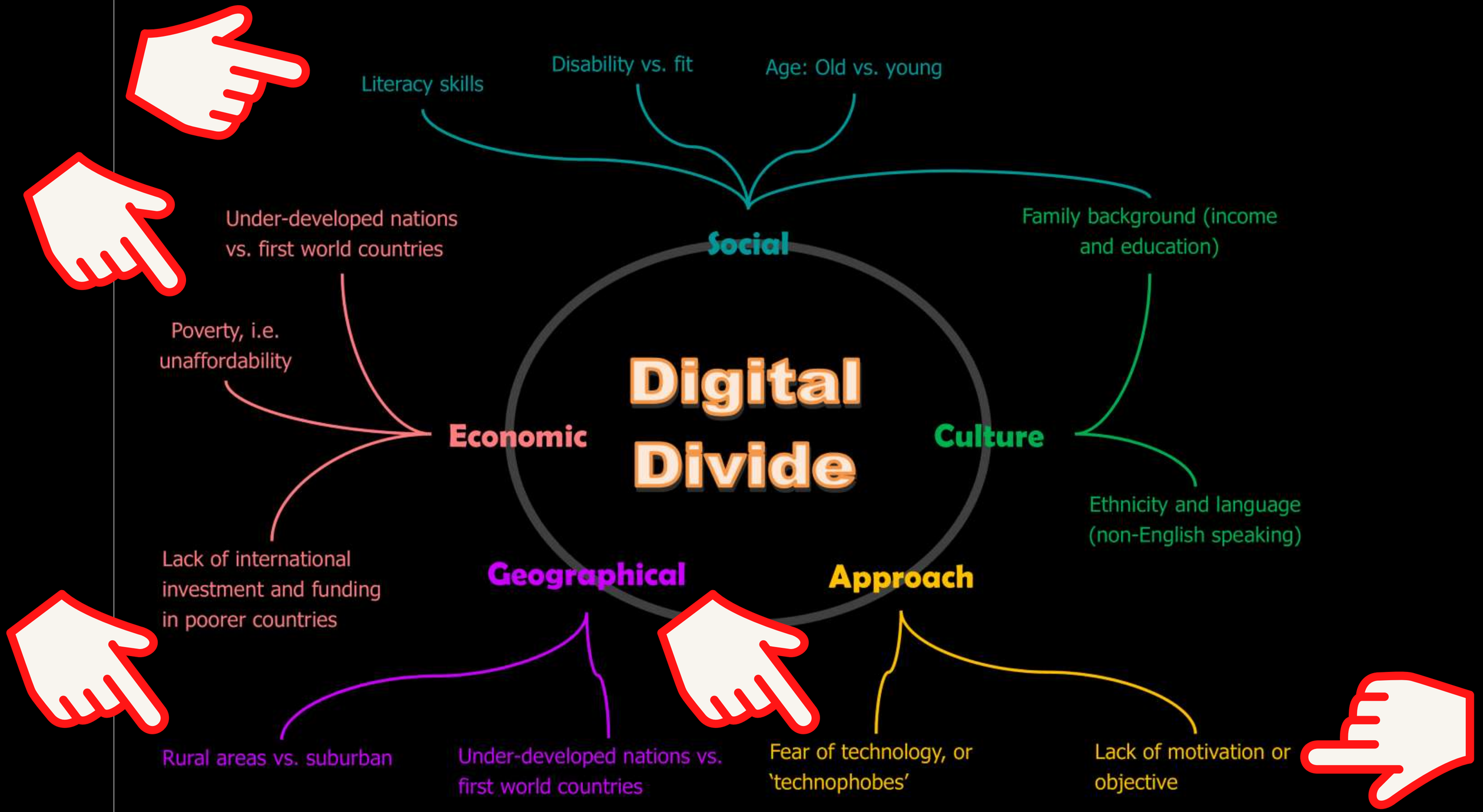
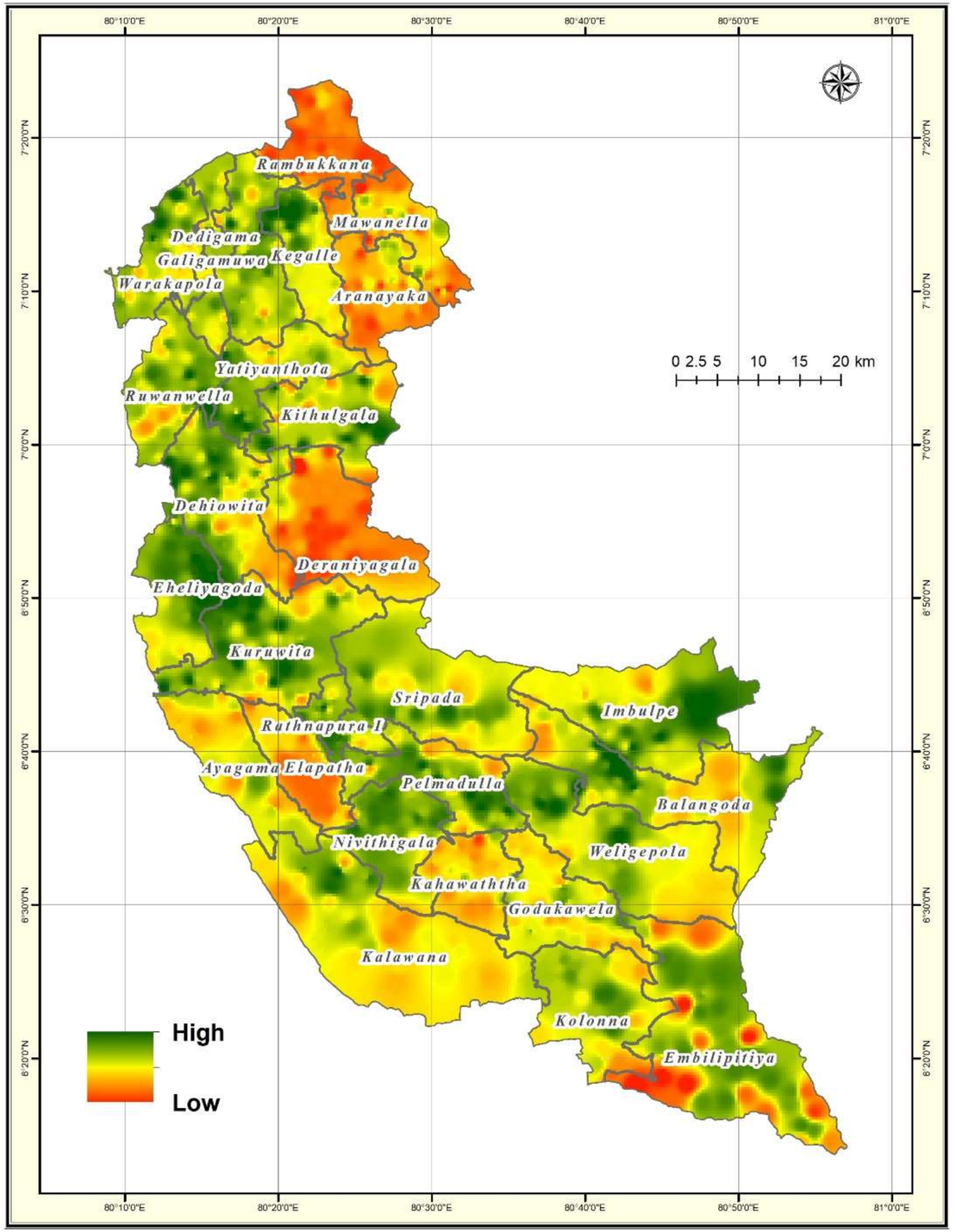
- **Qualitative Methodology**
- **Population - Students, Teachers & Principals & officers of Sabaragamuwa Province**
- **convenience sampling**
- **Sample Size was 30**
- **Data Collection Methods are Document Analysis, Interviews, Focused Group Interviews, Observations**
- **Data Analyses – Thematic Analysis**


Literacy skills
Disability vs. fit
Age: Old vs. young
Social
Under-developed nations vs. first world countries
Family background (income and education)
Poverty, i.e. unaffordability
Digital Divide
Economic
Culture
Ethnicity and language (non-English speaking)
Lack of international investment and funding in poorer countries
Geographical
Approach
Rural areas vs. suburban
Under-developed nations vs. first world countries
Fear of technology, or 'technophobes'
Lack of motivation or objective

Focused Factors

- Literacy Skills
- Fear of Technology
- Lack of Motivation
- Rural Area Factor
- Unaffordability

Signal Strength Mapping



KEY INTERVENTIONS

As the Sabaragamuwa Education

1. Online Exams Culture
2. Interactive Contents (Online & Offline)
3. Teacher Empowerment
4. Co-Curricular Online Activities

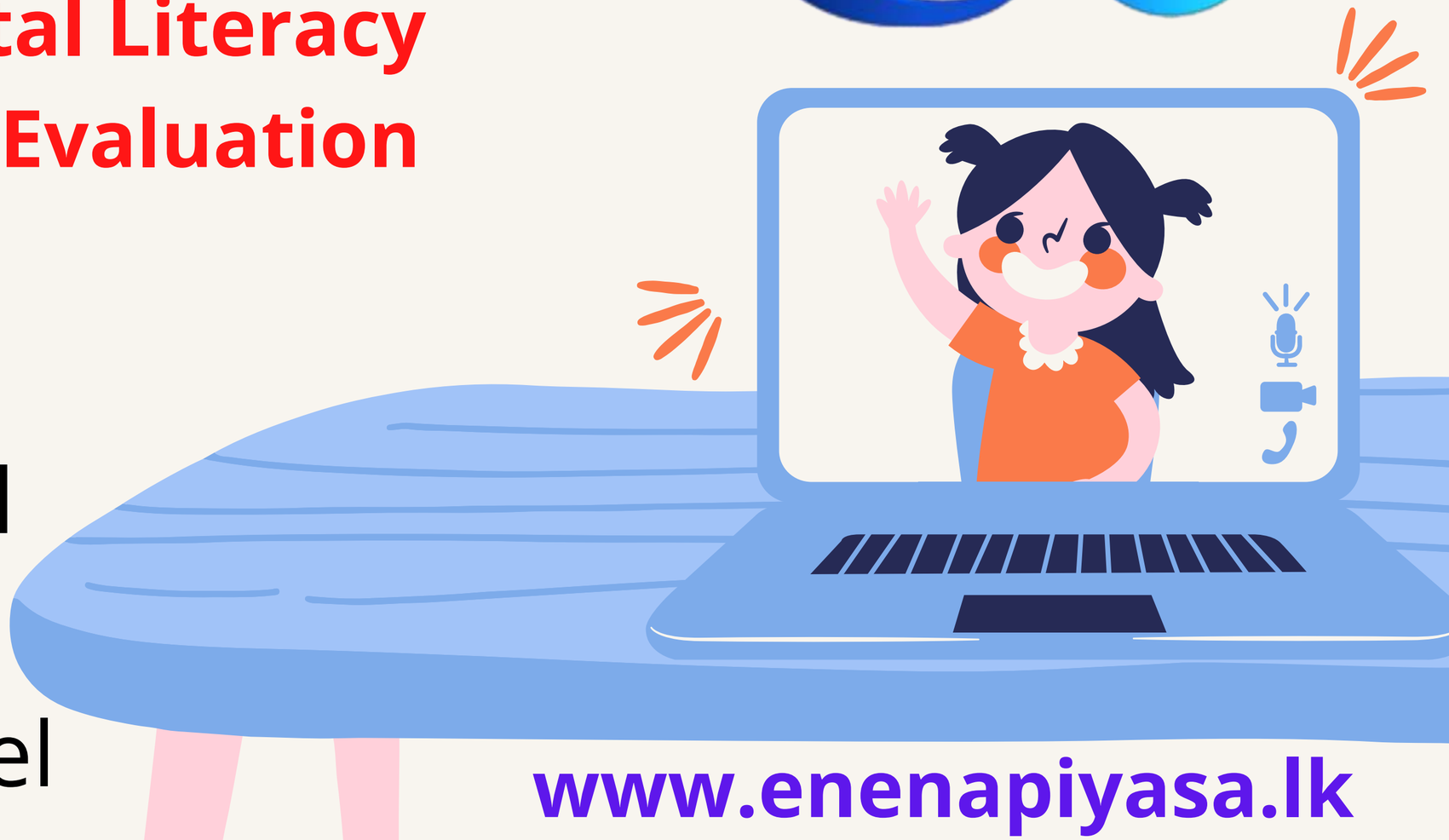
40% Accessibility

1. Online Exams

Built an Online Exams Culture

- **Improve Digital Literacy**
- **Assessment/ Evaluation**

- Grade Five
- Ordinary Level
- Mathematics
- Advanced Level



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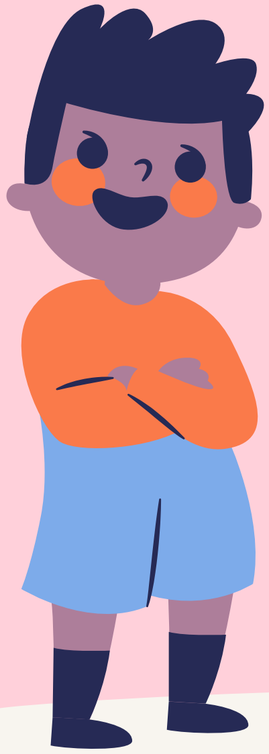
First Exam

Participation

33% from Sri Lanka

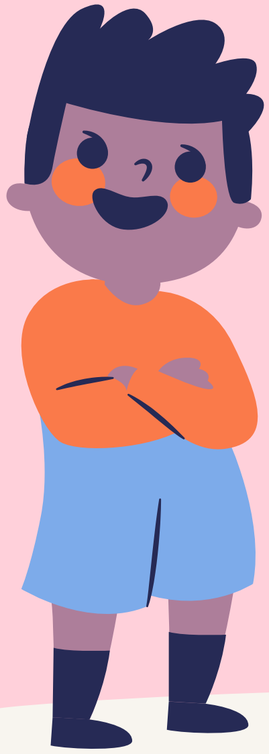
50% from Western Province

78.18% from Sabaragamuwa



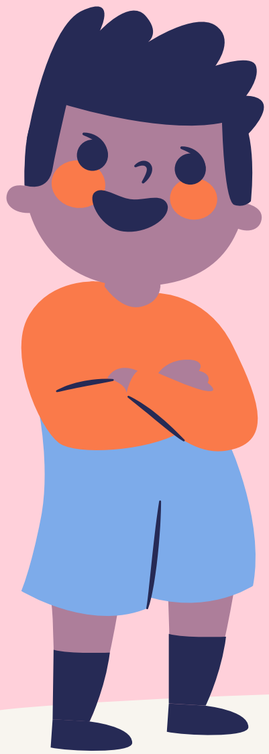
Grade 5 Online Exams

- Second Exam - **96.33 %**(No Travel Restrictions)
- Third Exam - **76.78 %**

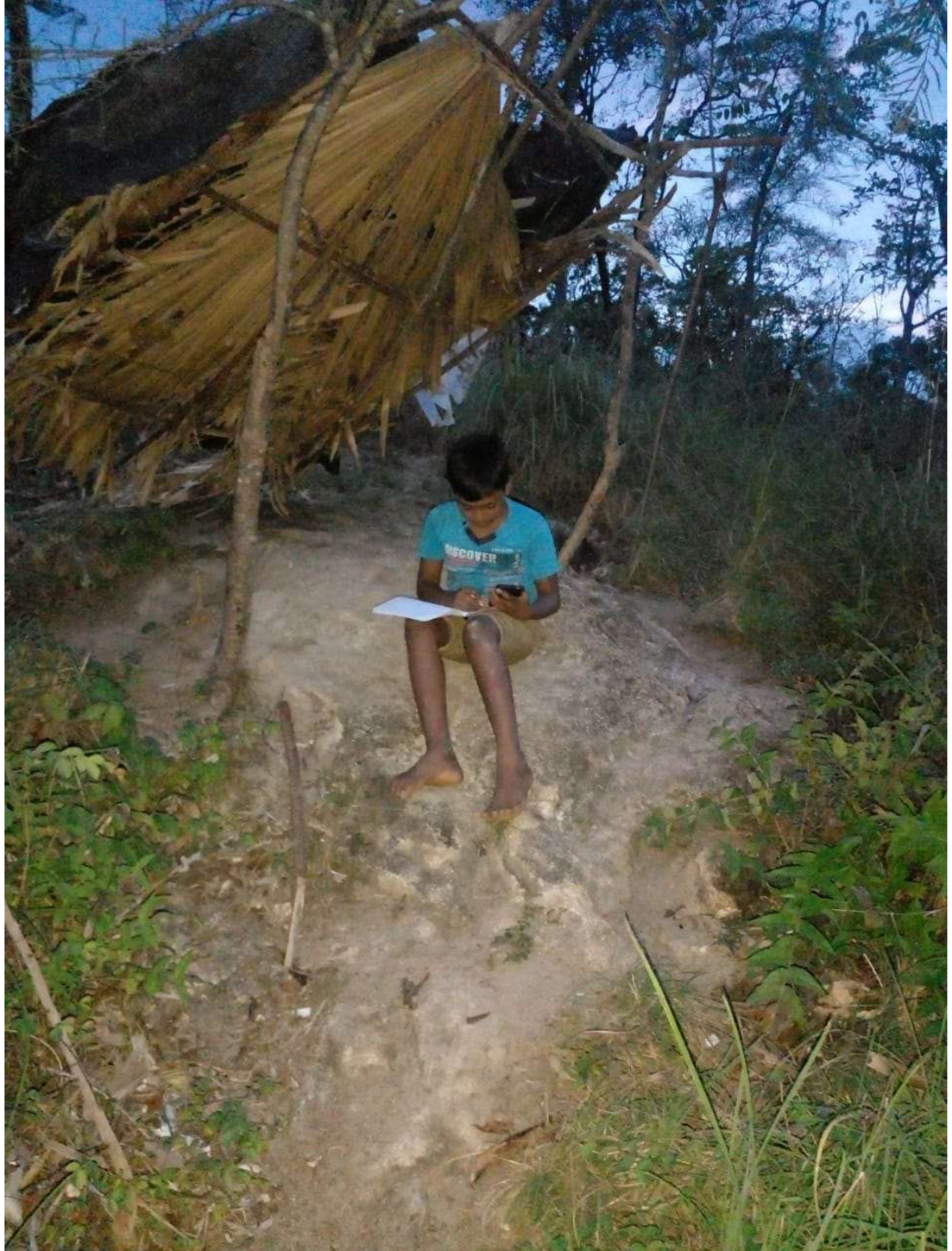


Grade 5 Online Exams

Mathematics Online Exam 2021- Students Particpation By Province					
	Province	Sinhala	Tamil	English	Total
1	Western	161,414	7,243	24,457	193,114
2	Sabaragamuwa	87,236	8,794	13,824	109,854
3	Southern	57,655	1,455	8,961	68,071
4	Central	39,840	6,326	8,764	54,930
5	North Western	40,767	1,912	8,971	51,650
6	North Central	20,946	960	3,075	24,981
7	Uva	7,790	1,175	3,601	12,566
8	Eastern	2,114	2,260	482	4,856
9	Nothern	399	3,588	566	4,553
	Total	418,161	33,713	72,701	524,575

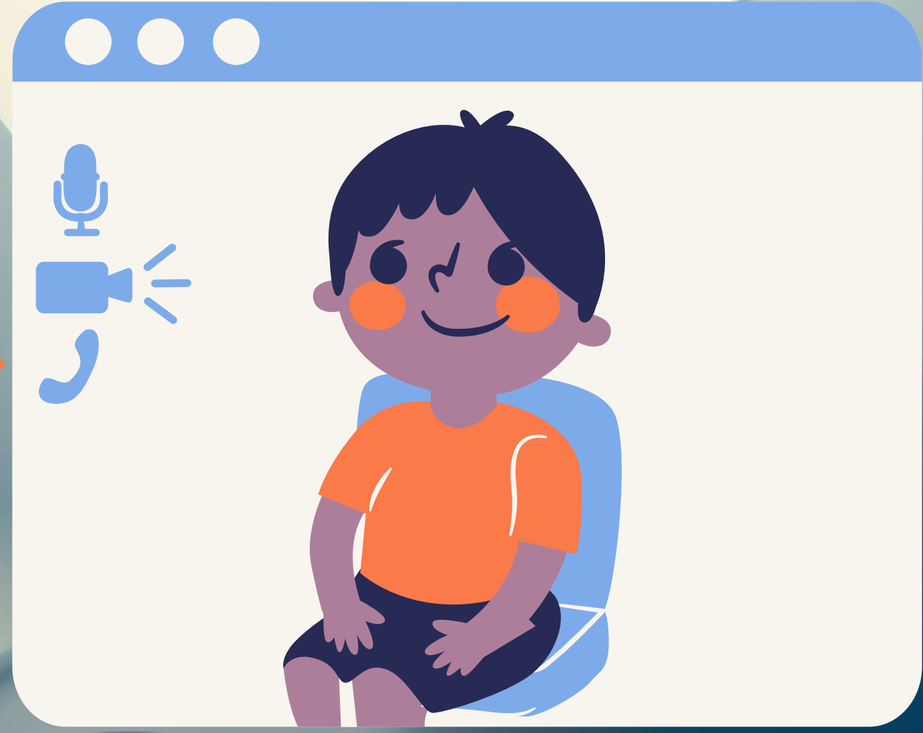


Mathematics Exam



2. INTERACTIVE CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

3. Teacher Empowerment



ICDAL- Interactive Content Development for Active Learning.

ICDAL 01 - 414

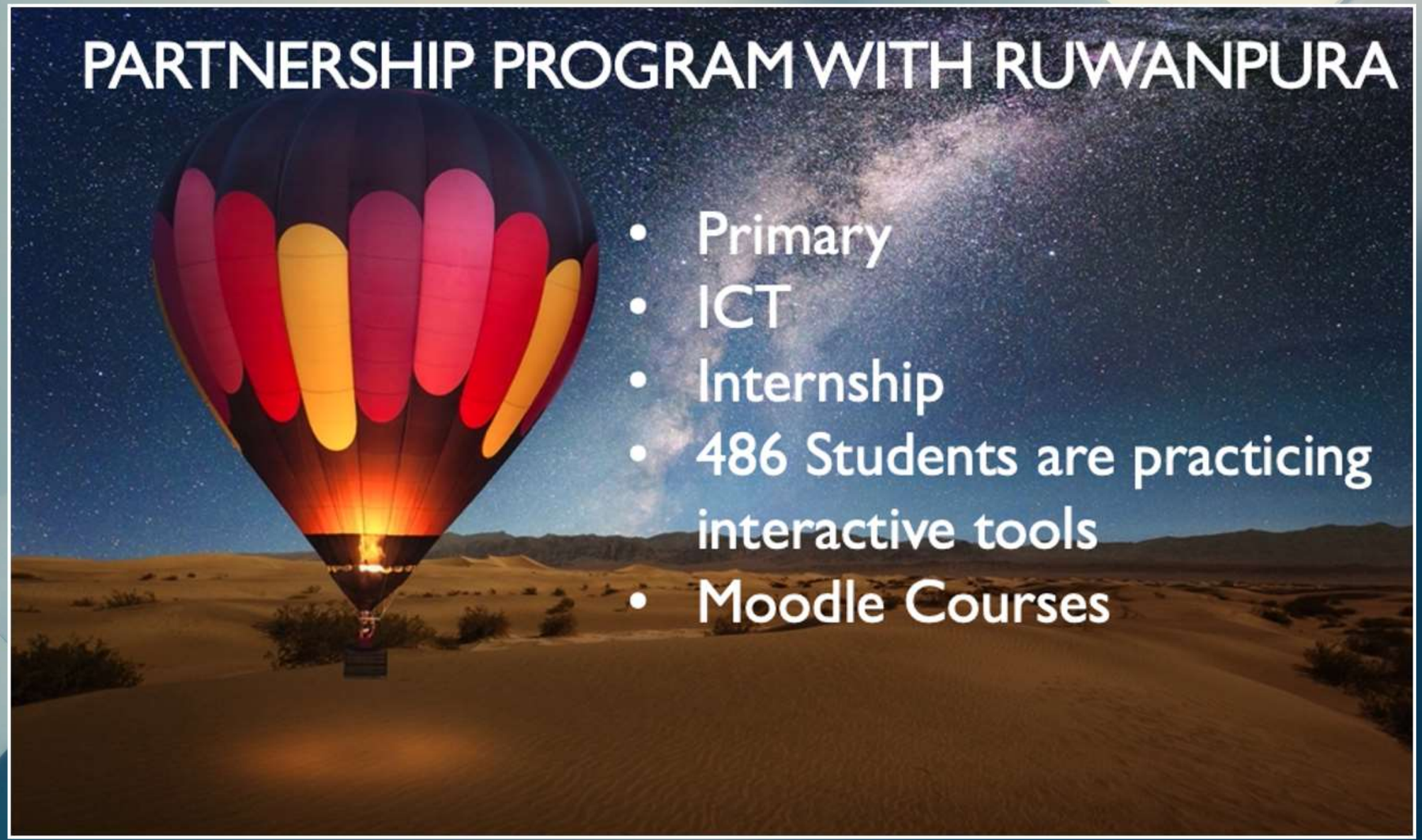
ICDAL 02 & 3 – 1884

ICDAL –SESIP- Ongoing (107 Completd)

GABL- Google Apps for Better Life

GABL- 1 - Ongoing
(781 Completed)
GABL- 2 - Ongoing (766 Studying)

Blended Learning for Beginners (BLB 01, BLB 02, BLB 03)



PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SABARAGAMUWA

CERTIFICATE

OF COMPLETION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Has successfully completed the 40 hours online course:
"Blended Learning for Beginners"
Conducted by E-Nenapiyasa for the Teacher Trainees of
Ruwanpura National College of Education
from 7th of June 2021 to 15th of August 2021

SEPALA KURUPPUARACHCHI
PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

LAKMAL ERANDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION - DEVELOPMENT
COURSE COORDINATOR

DATE :

CERIFICATE ID : ZA342FGH

ICDAL- Interactive Content Development for Active Learning

6000 Trained Voluntarily

Issuing Badges to motivate and continuous engagement

Facilitation for less privileged school Students

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How they have completed

Publications

CREATING A CONDUCIVE E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A COLLABORATIVE ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT ON *E- NENAPIYASA* AND ONLINE SUPERVISION

K.Lakmal[1*], A.Herath[2], A.Thawoos[1], A.Rajah[1]

[1] Provincial Department of Education, Sabaragamuwa, Sri Lanka

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The Digital divide in online school education during the Covid-19 pandemic at the Sabaragamuwa Province in Sri Lanka

K. Lakmal Eranda Kumara,
Deputy Director of Education,

K.J. Fernando
The principal
Prince of Wales' College,
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Creating an Ordinary Level Online Mock Examination System for Sri Lanka During the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Collaborative Action Research on *E-Nenapiyasa*/Learning Management System

K.L.E. Kumara[1*], H.M.A.S. Herath[2], M.T.M. Ansaf[1], D.V.A.G. Dodangoda[1], M.S. Kumara[1], K.P.A.R. Pathirana[1], A.M. Rajah[1]

[1] Provincial Department of Education, Sabaragamuwa, Sri Lanka

[2] University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

3. INTERACTIVE CONTENTS

Colours

Pictures

Sounds

Movements

Rhythms

- Increases Engagement
- Active Participation
- Motivation
- Facilitate Self Learning
- Improve the utilization of Available Devices

INTERACTIVE CONTENT DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

- Wordwall
- Narrative Presentations
- Learning apps
- Live worksheets
- Hot Potatoes
- i-Spring
- H5P - HTML5 Package

- Akura – Program to write Sinhala Characters

- Created During the Complete Lock-Down Situation
- Primary Education Team - Sabaramauwa

Gamification – Game based learning

LETS SEE THE CONTENTS

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Thank You