Covid-19 and resilience of young people in Low/Middle income countries

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COVID-19 and Young People

Summary

1) Intro: Young Lives Survey- 20 years following 12,000 young people in four Low/Middle income countries

2) Findings from COVID-19 phone survey
   - Education- Inequalities around digital access
   - Work- Bounce back after initial shocks – flexibility?
   - Mental Health- Resilience for all but the most food insecure
Location of Study
Structure of the Young Lives 2020 Survey

Call 1
Getting-in-touch call
(June/July 2020)
- COVID-19 related knowledge
- Impact on education
- Impact on health
- Impact on economic activities

Call 2
Main survey call
(Aug/Oct 2020)
- COVID-19
- Economic shocks since the outbreak
- Food security
- Health
- Education
- Time use during the lockdown
- Employment and earnings
- Mental health

Call 3
Follow up call
(Nov/Dec 2020)
- Education
- Food security
- Mental health
- Employment and earnings
Pre and Post COVID-19 (1)

Pre-Covid:
- High growth and poverty reduction
- Peru: middle income
- India/Vietnam: lower-middle income
- Ethiopia: low-income
Pre and Post COVID-19 (2)

- Steep rise in food shortages in 2020 survey (except Vietnam)
- One in six households in Ethiopia/India report running out of food
- Drop in reported wellbeing (except in Vietnam)
- Peru: Illness and stress about COVID

Chart: Proportion running out of food
Key findings: Education

Continuing studies during school closures has been almost impossible for students without access to both internet and a device to learn on.

• In Ethiopia, 39% of 19-year-old girls had not engaged in any form of learning since school closures began.
• In India, this proportion was 14%.
• In Peru, boys were more at risk of dropping out.
• In Vietnam – mainly school completion.

Fears for return to school after a year of lost learning...
Key findings: Employment

Severe Economic Shock March-August

- Many lost jobs and very few were able to work from home
- Many 19 year olds had to take jobs to help the family

However, recovery by end-year

- Bounce back between August and December for most (except older girls)
- Shifting sectors suggests resilience through adaptability
  - Move into agriculture which can be done “socially distanced” and was not restricted

And the situation is bleaker for 3 countries again in April 2021

- Covid-19 cases rising in Ethiopia, India, Peru
- Conflict in Ethiopia
Labour Market resilience: Peru

- Not many can work from home
- Some sectors more affected than others by lockdown
- Evidence of rebound by December
- Higher skilled bounce back quicker

Proportion still working in different sectors: Peru

- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Retail
- Hospitality
- Other services

- During National lockdown
- August-October (call 2)
- November-December (call 3)
Key findings: Mental Health

August Survey showed a difficult picture
• Rates of both anxiety and depression highest in Peru
  • Almost half of Peruvian young women reported symptoms of (at least) mild anxiety
  • Vietnam the lowest rate of problems

By December recovery in all countries except Ethiopia
• Significant improvement in Peru
• In all countries, food insecure reported worse mental health
Find out more

**Young Lives main website:** [https://www.younglives.org.uk](https://www.younglives.org.uk)

[https://voxeu.org/content/young-lives-interrupted-coping-covid-19-developing-countries](https://voxeu.org/content/young-lives-interrupted-coping-covid-19-developing-countries)
Thank you for attending, any questions?