



How can we as educators
respond to the COVID-19
challenges to ensure the well-
being of children and youth?

Maria Lucia Uribe, Director, Arigatou
International Geneva

THE INVISIBILITY OF CHILDREN

- The narrative of COVID-19 has excluded children, particularly it has side-lined the impact on their lives in the long-term.
- Lockdowns and government measures have invisibilized children as key actors in



Socio-emotional and Mental Health of Educators

1

- Teachers peer support online groups
- Meditation and Mindfulness practices



Transform and adapt learning into more contextual experiences for children and youth

2

A

Deprioritize hard core subjects – prioritize socio-emotional learning

B

Prioritize life skills: critical thinking, empathic listening

C

Create opportunities for reflection, to find hope and strengthen resilience

Increase communication with parents and caregivers, as well as religious communities and civil society organizations

3

A

Parents – first responders - Communicate

B

**Expectations
religious**

3

**communities to provide protection
Increased support to counselling and raising awareness**

Make Learning Fun

4

A

**Less about
technological
skills of educators**

B

**Creativity to
engage
children**

3

**Connect
learning with
home activities
and realities**



The Importance of Interconnectedness



- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated xenophobia, hate and exclusion
- Discriminatory rhetoric
- Give space for



Emphasize the Spiritual Development and Growth of Children

5

- **EMPOWER CHILDREN**
- **Create spaces for them to connect with one another**
- **Help children be in control of their own learning**
- **Let children reflect about injustices, rights and be in solidarity with one another**



CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **MAKE EDUCATION PART OF THE SOLUTION**
- **MAKE EDUCATION EMBEDDED IN THE CONTEXTUAL REALITY**
- **PRIORITIZE ETHICS AND SPIRITUAL EDUCATION**
- **TEACHERS CAN HELP FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION IN A TIME WHEN THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETIES ARE AT RISK**
- **TEACHERS CAN HELP EMPOWERING**



ARIGATOU

INTERNATIONAL

All for Children

THANK YOU

Maria Lucia Uribe

E-mail:

**[ml.uribe@arigatouinternational.
org](mailto:ml.uribe@arigatouinternational.org)**