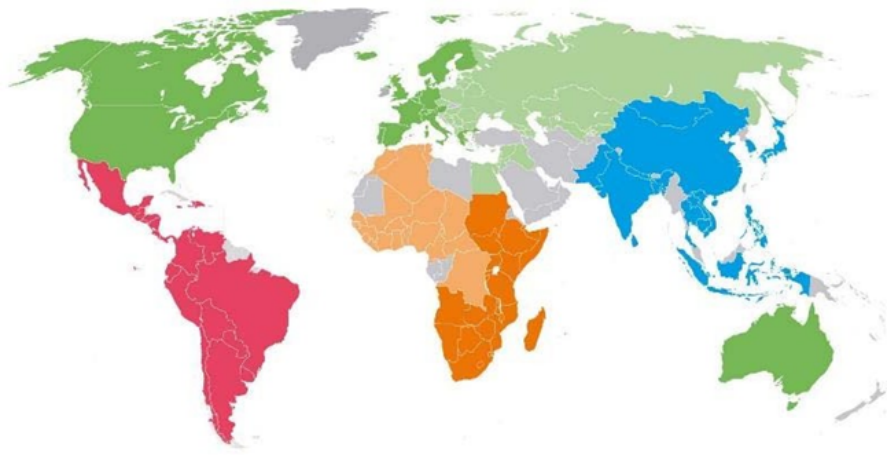


## SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

Who we are and how we work with young people



SOS Children's Villages works together with local communities in 136 countries and territories. We work in many different ways to meet the needs of the children and young people we serve, which includes:

- Strengthening families
- Providing with alternative Care
- Child, Youth and Maternal Health (including Mental Health)
- Youth Employability and Participation
- Education & Development
- Emergency Response

and many more!

## OUR APPROACH TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We work in many different ways to empower young people in all areas affecting their lives:

**CROSS-CUTTING** **YOUTH PARTICIPATION**  
We encourage and support young people to have a voice and become active participants in decision-making processes affecting their lives

- YOUTH CARE OPTIONS**  
We shape a range of quality youth care options tailored to the individual needs of every individual young person.
- YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH & WELL-BEING**  
We support young people's social and emotional development, physical and mental health.
- YOUTH EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**  
We facilitate young people's access to relevant quality education and support them to build skills relevant to succeed on the labor market, together with partners.
- YOUNG PEOPLE'S JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE**  
We prepare and accompany each young person on their individual journey to independent life.
- YOUTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**  
We train care professionals and support staff on how to prepare children, young people and parents to succeed in life from a rights-based approach

## YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

Young people leaving care are among the most vulnerable groups in society. Without a proper preparation for their transition to adult life and out of alternative care, they often struggle to cope with independent living, placing them at heightened risk of social exclusion, homelessness, unemployment or involvement in crime. Many also suffer from mental health issues due to past harm and traumatic childhood episodes and need support to recover.

## CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic has produced significant interruptions in the life of children and young people. It has put into question, young people's transition to higher education, to employment and towards economic and financial independence. With the increasing use of digital tools in education and world of work, the changing needs of young people needs to be addressed with similar speed. There is certainly an attempt to identify the best practices to deal with the crisis and support young people moving forward.

SOS Children's Villages, International Office-Asia conducted a regional survey to learn the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on young people in Asia and different coping mechanisms adopted by them to lead their lives against the pandemic.

This study calls for a clear and targeted interventions with young people especially those planning to leave care soon. Young people should become more resilient, employable, mentally and physically sound to face the post COVID-19 world of work.

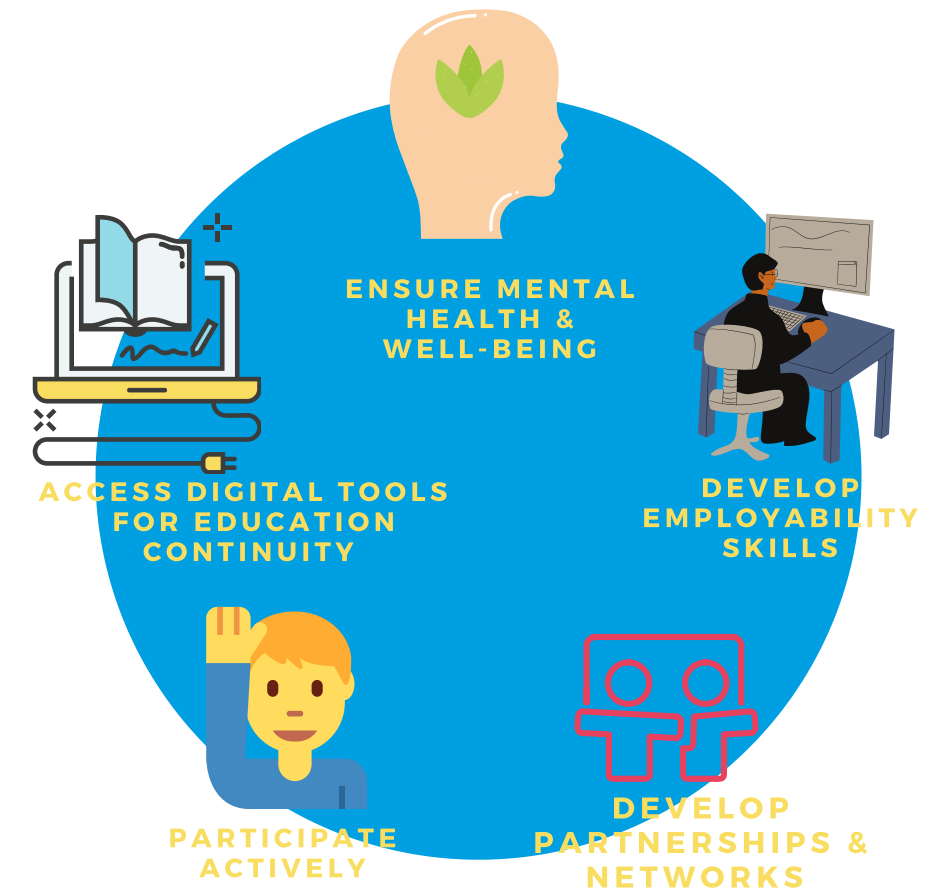
## METHODOLOGY

**Tool:** Online Survey designed using Microsoft Forms  
**Sampling:** Purposive Sampling  
**Sample Size:** 728 young people between age group 14-24 years and 93 mentors/industry volunteers  
**Countries participated:** SOS Children's Villages in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Philippines, Srilanka, Thailand and Vietnam.  
**Survey Languages:** English, Bahasa, Thai & Vietnamese

The survey participants were recruited in Asia region through purposive sampling. Young people who were engaged in virtual training and mentorship activities (apart from regular virtual school/colleges classes) to enhance their skills amidst COVID-19 pandemic were selected for this survey mainly from SOS family care and youth care. From family strengthening programmes; young people with internet connectivity could only participate. 728 young people mainly between the age group 14-24 years participated in the survey.

There was a separate online survey designed for volunteers/mentors/trainers who were involved in supporting young people during this pandemic. The survey was available in English and was conducted between the same time frame. 93 volunteers comprising of corporate volunteers, individual mentors and SOS educators responded to the survey.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PLANNING TO LEAVE CARE IN POST COVID-19 ERA



### Ensure Mental Health & Well-Being

- Attend Psychological first aid training and seek support if needed.
- Learn COVID-19 pandemic's effect on health and economy and how to bounce back safely.
- Engage in Sports activities and yoga sessions
- Limit time on social media

### Access Digital Tools for Education Continuity

- Avail uninterrupted, high speed broadband connection and necessary connectivity tools.
- Explore online courses. Digital literacy is very important moving forward.
- Create profiles on all the leading virtual job portals and platforms.

### Develop Employability Skills

- Prepare Individual Development Plans and monitor its progress.
- Keep a check on rising and falling industries as an after effect of the pandemic.
- Explore more of TVET & Entrepreneurship opportunities
- Attend career guidance webinars/sessions on employment/ self-employment opportunities in post COVID-19 era.

### Participate Actively

- Support COVID-19 response initiatives in nearby communities
- Participate or lead Youth-led initiatives and speak up.

### Develop Partnerships & Networks

- Connect with government relief programmes and avail related benefits.
- Connect with industry mentors to develop market relevant skills.

## KEY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

### Major Fear & Apprehensions

- 98% of the young people responding to the survey were fearful about their education especially delay in exams and semesters.
- 1 out of 2 (50%) young people recommended that better healthcare reforms could bring safer tomorrow as they were anxious about being infected by the corona virus.
- 1 out of 3 young people wanted better economic reforms; better job opportunities because they were anxious about leaving care in such a situation.

### Lifestyle changes

- 4 out of 6 young people shared that the pandemic has restricted their movements and that they missed going out.
- Wearing mask, social distancing and frequent hand washing were some of the recently adapted lifestyle changes.
- 4 out of 5 young people felt that face to face education & training sessions are still a better choice and would prefer to go back to classroom learning as soon as possible.

### Internet Connectivity Challenges

- Only 43% young people mentioned that they attend their virtual classes daily while others could attend only as per arrangements.
- 89% of the young people reported that they have access to one or more Electronic devices. Out of them, 39% were having access to Common Desktops. Around 11% had no access to these devices.
- 50% of the young people had reasonably good internet connection. There are still 14% young people who had poor or almost negligible internet access.

### Developing Skills amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

- All young people reported that their coaching and skill training came to an halt because of the lockdown measures.
- 50% of the young people were attending either English classes or Computer courses during this period.
- Only 17% young people attended Employability skill training programmes .
- 20% young people suggested to include Entrepreneurship training modules as they were interested to start their enterprises.

### Feedback from Mentors/Volunteers

- 3 out of 5 (60%) industry volunteers mentioned that the "Exchange of Experiences" was the most valuable part of the programme.
- 2 out of 5 (40%) are now aware about "young people from alternative care background"
- 3 out of 5 (60%) industry volunteers considered face-to-face training programmes as more effective.
- 4 out of 5 (80%) volunteers suggested to concentrate on creative industries like Mobile Application and content development as they will provide better job opportunities in coming times.

"Staying safe till vaccine arrives is a major concern. Educational institutions are most vulnerable. Anxious about going back to college."  
- Young boy from SOS CV India

"I am in 2nd year hotel/restaurant administration course. The sector is the one worst affected by this pandemic. In case the sector do not revive I would have to go for alternative options like teaching"  
- Young Girl from SOS CV Philippines

"Improve internet connection so that youth can gain more knowledge in online activities and classroom session without interruption."  
- Young Girl from SOS CV Philippines

Learn communication skills, interpersonal skills. Learn Change management and how to adapt to new situation"  
- Corporate Volunteer from Indonesia