A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED BY RURAL SCHOOL CHILDREN DUE TO COVID - 19 PANDEMIC BASED ONLINE EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Education is a social institution through which a society's children are taught basic academic knowledge, learning skills and cultural norms. At the beginning of year 2020 and ending of 2019 an outbreak of a novel corona virus that is Covid-19 find out in China. It was rapidly increasing in few months in many countries of the world as well as Sri Lanka. In this situation directly affects to education system in Sri Lanka. At that time, to continue the education process via E-learning methods like online class. In this mode, both teaching and learning happen through electronic devices which are relatively new to the entire learning community. This online education system had a direct impact on the school education in rural society. For this study, aimed to understand what are the challenges faced by rural school children due to Covid-19 pandemic based online education system. Besides, it tried to understand the user experiences and the measures can be taken to overcome those challenges. The main objective of this research is to identify the challenges faced by rural school children in online education system. In additions to, sub objectives of this study is to identify the social and economic status of rural social family structure, to gain an understanding of the technical awareness of rural school children and to presenting timely important suggestions and recommendations to overcome the difficulties faced by rural school children in the online education system. This study was conducted in associated with both rural school such as R/Sri Sumana Maha Vidyalaya and Niralgama Maha Vidyalaya under Rathnapura Divisional Secretariat. The data was obtained used qualitative and quantitative data methods. Therefore, this research was conducted using 50 data contributors, who were35 students studying grades 10, 11 and advanced level and 15 parents were selected as data contributors. Primary data collection methods, like questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used in this research for collecting data. The study also found that the main challenges of online education system such as technical mistakes, communication issues, students feelings, students stressful condition in online learning etc. however, these study are important how to improve the technologies to make them use more efficiently. Beside, this study gives a proper framework to modify or create suitable education methods, techniques and schemes to obtain equal access to resources for all.

Keywords: Covid-19, Rural Society, Education, Online Education, School Children

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