



HOW CHILDREN ARE COPING DURING LOCKDOWN



unicef | for every child

National Bureau of Statistics

In collaboration with Ministry of Education and UNICEF Maldives
Republic of Maldives

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To celebrate this year's Children's Day, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) together with Ministry of Education and in support with UNICEF Maldives launched a quiz to test Children's knowledge on the current situation with COVID. This opportunity was also used to gather information on how it has affected their life and how they are coping during lockdown.

The quiz was for ages 10 to 15 years (Grade 5 to Grade 10) and was carried out from 10 May to 14 May 2020.

The quiz was categorized into two parts. The first part included 6 questions to test their basic knowledge related corona virus. To gauge more response, the quiz was promoted in a way that winners will be selected from each age. Part 2 included 12 questions which collected information on how they are living their life during lockdown.

To roll out the quiz, Ministry of Education shared the link in school Viber groups. And then the message was passed out by the teachers in Viber groups formed for each grade class. Additionally, NBS did promotion on their website, and tweeted about the quiz during the week.

By the end of 14 May, 4842 responses were received. 60 percent of the responses came from girls. And most of the responses were centered around the age of 11 and 12 years. About 65 percent of the responses came from kids residing in the Atolls.

This paper presents a brief finding of the results based on these 4842 responses and the results should be interpreted and used as such.

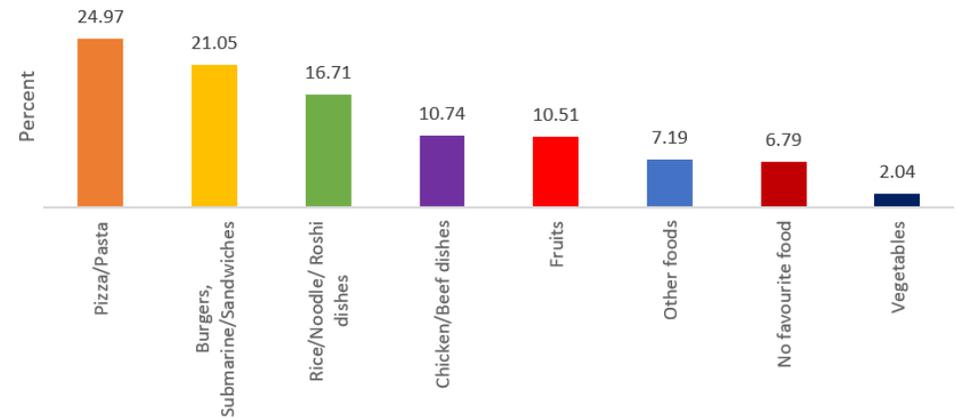
CONGRATS WINNERS!

Out of the 4842 response, 39% of the children got all the 6 quiz questions correct. And another 36% of the children got 5 questions correct. So, congratulation to all of you! We are happy to learn you know a lot about COVID. We hope this information is used wisely to protect yourself and your family from getting the virus. Stay safe and we can get through this together!



When asked about what their favourite food was, most of the children said it was pizzas/ pasta followed by burgers, submarine and sandwiches. This is same across girls and boys. As kids' tastes are more towards fast food, it's important that more nutritious food is included in their meals and exercise regularly.

Figure 1: Favourite Food among children (10-15 years), in % (n=4842)



PIZZAS AND BURGERS ARE THE FAVOURITE- BUT MOST HAD RICE/ NOODLES/ROSHI DISHES DURING PAST WEEK

Apart from their favourite food, children were asked what was the most common food they had during past week. Most of the children mentioned that they had rice/noodles/roshi dishes. Next came burgers and other foods. Given that the survey was done in lock-down and during Ramazaan, it is likely to have an effect on their choice of food. Or it can be said that even though kids like fast food, parents opt to give them healthier food. Either way, healthier diet helps to keep you fit and healthy during these times!

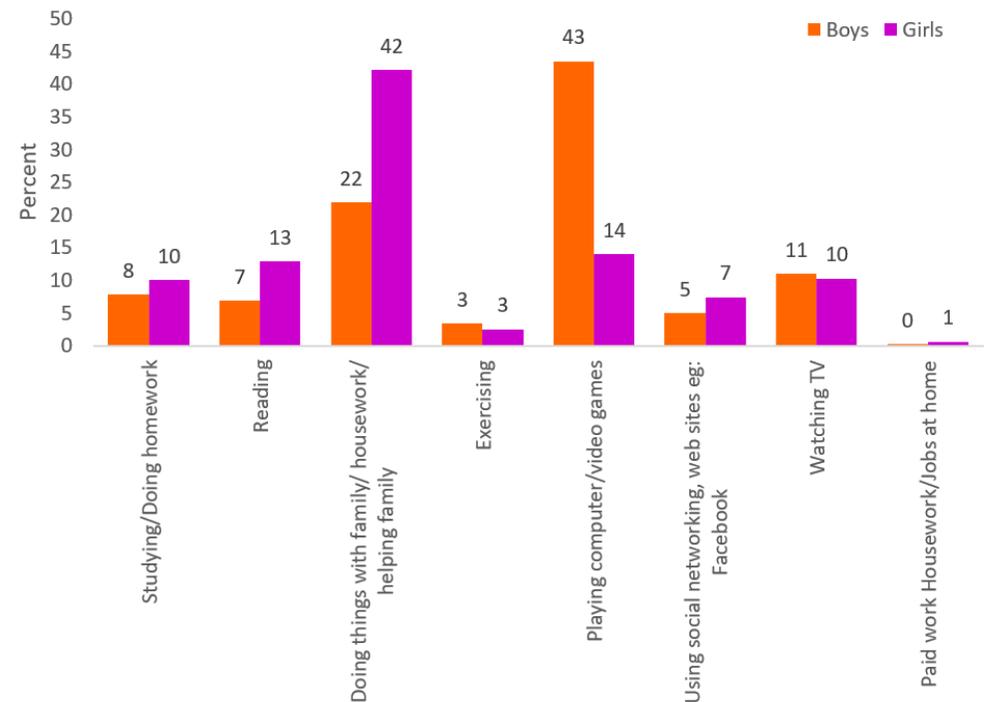


GIRLS REPORTED SPENDING MORE TIME HELPING FAMILY/DOING HOUSEWORK COMPARED TO BOYS

Schools have been closed since mid-semester break in March. For most children, it has been more than two months out of classroom. During this time, it's important you find ways to occupy your time. Reading, studying, taking up new hobbies and helping with household chores are little things that can keep you from feeling stress, anxious and bored.

The results showed that girls are spending most of their time with family and helping with housework (42%). More girls are helping their family in the Atolls than in Male'. While boys spend most of their time playing computer/ video games (43%), boys are seen doing things with their family/housework as well (22%). This highlights gender roles in our society begins at an early age.

Figure 2: Most time spent activities during last week, in % (n=4842)





MORE GIRLS REPORTED HAVING ALLERGIES THAN BOYS.

A simple question asked in PART 2 was whether they had any allergies. 28% of the kids reported that they did. Among them, more girls have allergies.

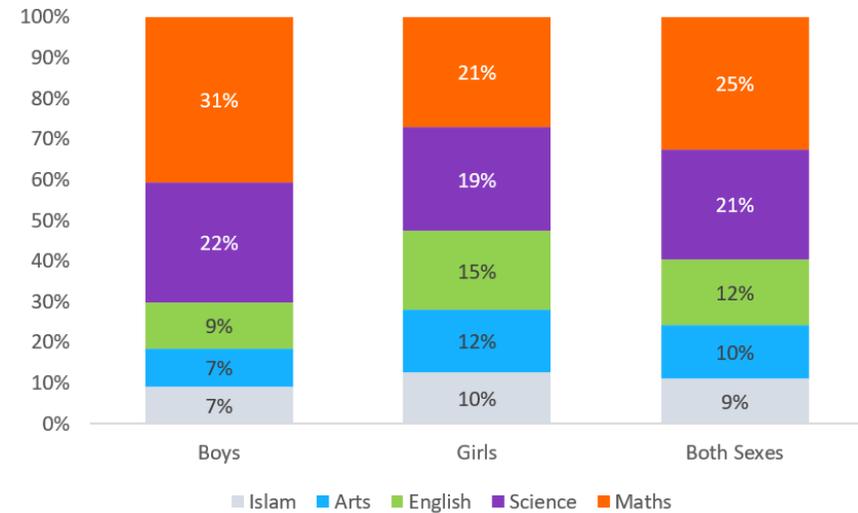
CHILDREN LOVE TO STUDY MATH AND SCIENCE

LESS GIRLS REPORTED SCIENCE AS THEIR FAVOURITE SUBJECT COMPARED TO BOYS

When asked about their favourite subject, one fourth of the children reported that they love doing Maths. The is the same among boys and girls. It also shows that almost one third of boys reported math

as their favourite subject, while less than one fourth of the girls reported math it as their favourite subject. The top five subjects among children of these ages include Maths, Science, English, Arts and Islam. Less than 4% of the children like studying Dhivehi, the official language.

Figure 3: Favourite subject among children (10-15 years), in % (n=4842)



* Note: For this question, children were given a list of 15 subject to choose from. Figure 3 reports only the subjects with highest frequencies. Other subjects are not report because the number of observations were too few.



HALF THE CHILDREN REPORTED DIFFICULTY STUDYING FROM HOME, MAINLY DUE TO SLOW INTERNET SPEED.

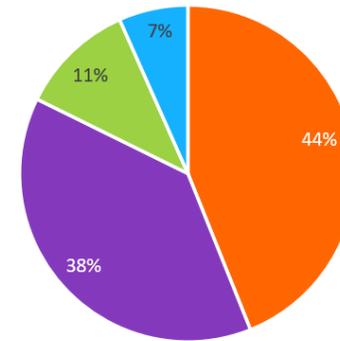
7% KIDS REPORT NO INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME

Even though school continues to be closed, Ministry of Education ensures that classes are held for each grade either virtually, uploading work in the google classroom or through Telekilass. This requires for them to have access to internet, or to TV channels at home. 7 % of the children reported they do not have internet connection at home. And most of these children are in Male' than in any other Atoll.

This means, the rest of the children have access to internet, mostly through fixed-broadband connection, followed by access to internet through other means such as using mobile phone.

Figure 4: Access to internet at home, in % (n=4842)

Yes-Broadband connection Yes-Other (such as mobile phone)
Yes-Dial-up connection No internet connection



When it comes to studying and following virtual class at home, more than half of the children reported that they do not face any difficulty studying at home. However, 24% of the children reported that its difficult to study at home due to slow internet connection. This highlights the importance of internet connectivity and access, to tohelp children to study from home during this time.

6% of the children reported that its too noisy at home and 5% of the children reported that it was difficult for them to study from home as there was no one to help them out with the studies.



KIDS STAY IN TOUCH THROUGH VIBER



While we continue to stay home and keep 'social distancing', it's important that we keep in touch with our loved ones, friends and other relatives. Kids are advised to be physically distanced but socially connected during this time. According to the results, Viber becomes the most popular app for children to communicate with their friends and family members. Children also use other means such as SMS and mobile to stay connected.

'WE MISS GOING TO SCHOOL' SAYS KIDS

We asked the children what they miss most during lockdown. For boys and girls, they definitely miss going to school. Almost half of the boys miss going to school while 25% of boys also reported that they miss going to mosque for prayers. Almost all the girls (76%) of them miss going to school followed by visiting family members (16%).



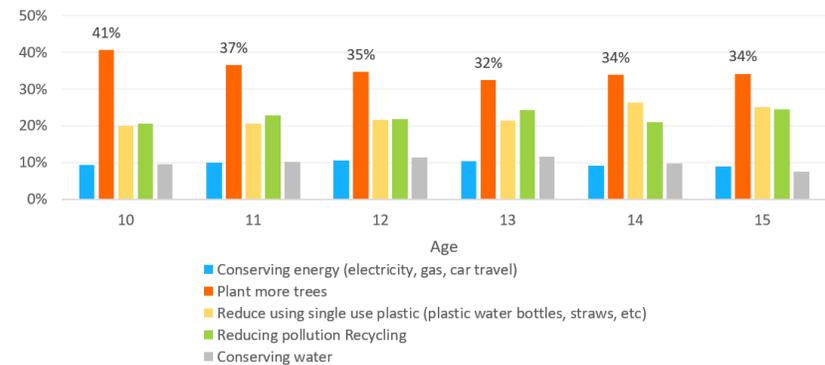
CHILDREN ARE CONCERNED ABOUT 'CUTTING DOWN TREES'

World Environment day is celebrated on 5 June every year to encourage worldwide awareness and to protect our environment. Maldives, being an island nation makes us more environmentally fragile than any other country. Everyone has a role to play when protecting our environment. Even children can do a lot to conserve, preserve and protect our natural environment.

Through this quiz, we tried to gather information on children's awareness about environmental issues. The results showed that children of these ages are equally aware of key environmental issues. Most of the children showed concern towards loss of plant life on earth. As we look across ages, their concern regarding the use of single use plastic and pollution is more among teens.



Figure 7: Most concerning environmental issues by age, in % (n=4842)





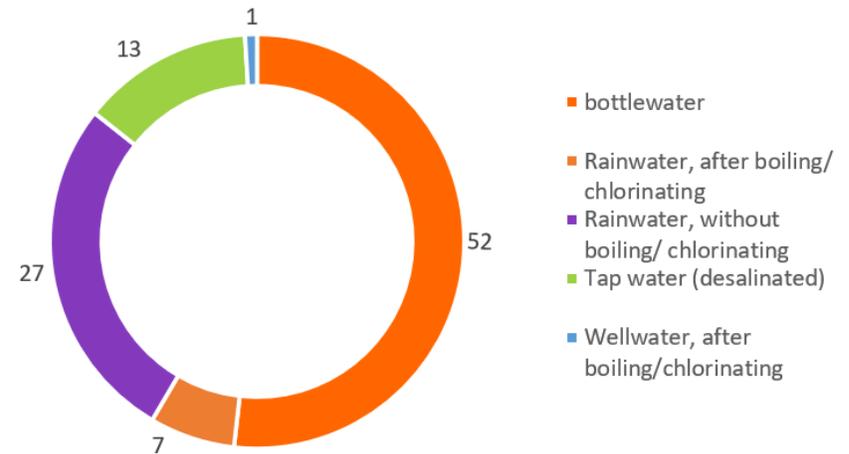
27% OF THE CHILDREN DRINK RAINWATER WITHOUT ANY TREATMENT

The main source of drinking among us is rain water, bottled water, tap water or well water. Over the years, the use of well water has deteriorated due to weak groundwater supply. Rainwater becomes the main source of drinking water among those living in the islands.

The results show that while more than half of the children drink bottle water, more than a quarter of children drink rainwater with-

out boiling/ chlorinating (27%). Rainwater, collected in its pure from the roof, is not considered as safe drinking water. We should treat it by boiling, chlorinating or by doing proper filtering before drinking it. And this process makes rainwater a safe drinking water as well.

Figure 8: Main type of drinking water, among children ages (10-15 years), in % (n=4842)



THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY FROM CORONA VIRUS IS BY STAYING
HOME - KIDS KNOW IT

The results of quiz showed us that the children are aware of COVID-19 which includes how it is spread and what are the symptoms of the virus. In light of this, the children reported that the best way to protect themselves and their family from COVID-19 is by staying home, unless it is absolutely necessary to go out (60%). 26% of the children also reported that washing hand for 20 seconds using and soap and water keeps the virus away.



**STAY
HOME**
SAVE LIVES

Children's Day Quiz – Questions - PART 2: About you and your life in lockdown:

- 1- **Do you have any allergies?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 2- **What is your favourite type of food?**
 - a. Chicken/Beef dishes
 - b. Rice/Noodle/ Roshi dishes
 - c. Vegetables
 - d. Burgers, Submarine/Sandwiches
 - e. Fruit
 - f. Pizza/Pasta
 - g. Other
 - h. No Favourite
- 3- **During last week what was the most common food that you had?**
 - a. Chicken/Beef dishes
 - b. Rice/Noodle/Roshi dishes
 - c. Vegetables
 - d. Burgers, Submarine/Sandwiches
 - e. Fruit
 - f. Pizza/Pasta
 - g. Other
 - h. No Favourite
- 4- **During last week, on which of the following activities did you spend most of your time?**
 - a. Studying/Doing homework
 - b. Reading
 - c. Doing things with family/ housework/ helping family
 - d. Exercising
 - e. Playing computer/video games
 - f. Using social networking, web sites eg: Facebook
 - g. Watching TV
 - h. Paid work Housework/Jobs at home
- 5- **What is your favourite subject in school? Choose one**
 - a. Maths
 - b. English
 - c. Islam
 - d. Dhivehi
 - e. Quran
 - f. Art
 - g. Social Studies
 - h. Science
 - i. History
 - j. Geography
 - k. Chemistry
 - l. Computers and technology
 - m. Music
 - n. Health and Physical Education
 - o. Business Studies
- 6- **Can the internet be accessed at your home?**
 - a. No internet connection
 - b. Yes – dial-up connection
 - c. Yes – broadband connection
 - d. Yes – other (include internet access through mobile phone, etc.)
- 7- **Do you face any difficulties in studying from home at this time?**
 - a. Internet too slow/technical difficulties
 - b. No one to help with studies at home
 - c. Not enough space to study
 - d. Too much sound
 - e. Have to attend to home duties
 - f. No difficulty
 - g. Other
- 8- **Which of these methods do you most often use to communicate with your friends/family? Select one.**
 - a. In person
 - b. Text messaging
 - c. Internet chat or instant messaging
 - d. Telephone (landline)
 - e. E-mail
 - f. Cell phone
 - g. WhatsApp,
 - h. Facebook,
 - i. Viber
 - j. other social networking sites, or blog
- 9- **What do you miss most during lockdown?**
 - a. Going to school
 - b. Visiting my family members
 - c. Going to park, playgrounds, beach
 - d. Going to mosque to pray
 - e. Going to shops
- 10- **Which of the following environmental issues is the most important for you?**
 - a. Reducing pollution Recycling
 - b. Conserving water
 - c. Conserving energy (electricity, gas, car travel)
 - d. Reduce using single use plastic (plastic water bottles, straws, etc)
 - e. Plant more trees
- 11- **What type of water do you drink at home?**
 - a. Bottled water
 - b. Tap water (desalinated)
 - c. Rain water, after boiling/chlorinating
 - d. Rain water, without boiling/chlorinating
 - e. Well water, after boiling/chlorinating
- 12- **During the past two weeks, what have you done most to protect you and your family from the Coronavirus?**
 - a. Washing your hands for 20 second with soap and water
 - b. Use Sanitizer
 - c. Wear mask when out of the house
 - d. Stand 6 feet apart from people
 - e. Staying at home (unless it is absolutely necessary to go out)
 - f. Not touching your face
 - g. Other



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