The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender and Education

- **Presenter:**
- Ann-Marie Williams
- Deputy Programme Manager
- Gender and Development
- CARICOM Secretariat
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Parents are central to their lives

Children lack understanding of COVID-19 however, as far as possible parents need to simplify information on the pandemic

They respond to parents emotions

Parents need to take time out to avoid feeling anxious, fearful

Listen to children (encourage play as it forges communication & interaction)

HOME (Children under 5 yrs)
Stimulating conversations are not achieved with a tablet

Children must feel safe

Children respond to structure and routine
Pre-Teens (10-14 yrs)

- Pre-Teen years-A time when we give our children the tools that will set them up for life e.g. the habit of completing their homework, learning to self advocate, being tolerant of others, accepting differences, develop empathy, caring about people, nurturing a healthy self-esteem...
- What are the things that are important to this age group?
- The need to belong, connect, fit in, socialize with friends...in a time of CORONAVIRUS when so much is out of control, parent must exercise control.
Things in parents’ control:

• Ensure children maintain regular sleeping and waking hours (no devices in their room, chat sessions regulated)

• Children should eat a balanced diet and do so on time (No data on food insecurity during COVID-19 in the region) However, data from the US COVID Impact Survey of Mothers and Young Child.

• Households and children are considered food insecure if the respondents indicate that these two validated statements are true or sometimes true:
  
  • 1). The food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have enough money to get more.

  • 2). The children in my household were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food.
Food insecurity among U.S. children

![Chart](image)

**FIGURE 1. Food Insecurity in the United States, April 2020**

- **Child food insecurity**
  - **Mothers with children 12 and under**
  - **All households**
- **Food insecurity**
  - **Mothers with children 12 and under**
  - **Households with children under 18**
  - **All households**

The children in my household were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food.

The food that we bought just didn’t last, and we didn’t have enough money to get more.

Source: CSHCN Project Survey April 2020, March of Dimes Foundation. Note: Data for households and individuals with children under 18 are from the CSHCN Project Survey.” Data for individuals with children under 12 are from the March of Dimes Foundation. For more information about the March of Dimes Foundation, please visit:**

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Neither survey administered the complete child food insecurity battery as administered in the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement. The statistics for each of these individual limitations were replicated in the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement for 2010.
The graph illustrates the high levels of food insecurity observed in the COVID Impact Survey and in the Survey of Mothers with Young Children. By the end of April, it showed that more than one in five households in the United States, and two in five households with mothers with children 12 and under, were food insecure. In almost one in five households of mothers with children age 12 and under, the children were experiencing food insecurity.

The World Bank predicts that COVID-19 could force 50 million people into extreme poverty. Levels of hunger, malnutrition and illness and stress are expected to increase. The areas most affected depend on the impact of the virus on economic activity and the number of people living close to the international poverty line.
Health & Well-being (Goal 3)

As poverty deepens, levels of hunger, malnutrition and illness and stress are expected to increase especially among teenagers who often assume the role of the bread winner (males) where fathers are absent.

Males and young boys at risk for the worst forms of child labour esp. those who are out-of-school.

Girls are highly vulnerable to be sold off in early marriage arrangements, to be trafficked and become victims of teen-dating violence all in an effort to help their families. Sexual harassment is also a concern...

During this time...home is not safe as many shelter-in-place with their abusers (cases are often under-reported).

Some 144 m children forego their measles vaccine.
Education (Goal 4)

- Schools and day care need to re-open and should have been done in tandem with businesses (women’s triple role)
- Both students and teachers need support in advancing virtual learning...boys and girls learn differently
- Support for students in need of technological devices and wifi
- Closing the learning gaps in education
- What does the new school year look like?
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- Thank you!