



2020: The Lost Year for Education Report Launching Press Release

PETALING JAYA, Jan 25: The Association of Science, Technology, and Innovation (ASTI) officially launches a report based on its survey on how online learning is impacting the lives and learning of young minds today.

This survey provides an insight as to why online learning in 2020 has not been effective, especially among vulnerable communities and B40 families in Malaysia. A total of 120 teachers, across eight states and Kuala Lumpur, participated in this survey that was conducted at the end of last year. These teachers have been active contributors and participants in ASTI's longest running project – the Science Fair for Young Children (SFYC). Conducted online, the survey reached out to teachers in rural and urban government schools, a majority of whom teach in rural areas where most students are from B40 communities.

Top on the list, among other issues related to social problems, is the lack of mobile devices and internet accessibility for students.

The Coronavirus-19 pandemic has caused grave problems across the globe, and Malaysia is no exception. Some sectors have been able to survive, while others are barely making ends meet or have come to complete cessation.

Education, is an important essential service sector that cannot be compromised. While it is deemed recession-proof, none of us would have envisaged a worldwide pandemic that would cause schools to be shut down.

Looking forward, ASTI initiated this survey for the benefit of understanding how we can all regroup and reboot the education platforms in 2021 from the teacher's perspective. The first of which is to revise the previous school year's syllabus in the first three months of 2021. This move should include remedial classes for those who need them; and ensuring that adequate infrastructure for online learning is put in place for it to be effective.

It is ASTI's hope that we, as a nation, can come together to help our young people, who hold the country's future is in their hands. So let us focus all our attention on our future, by making the present a meaningful one.

We attach a brief summary of the report and you can also download the report from <https://www.asti.org.my/recoveryprojects/>

For further inquiry, we can be reached via email at asti2510@gmail.com or WhatsApp us at 014-7124217.

ASTI is a non-governmental and non-profit oriented organization (NGO) working towards empowering young children's' interest in science through the act of doing where learning is achieved from discovering scientific principles themselves. In order to achieve this vision, ASTI has experimented with various projects and has successfully gained traction on programs such as the Science Fair for Young Children (SFYC), Young Inventors Challenge (YIC), Creative, and Critical Thinking Camp (CCTC), and others. Each of these programs are interlinked in order to provide a platform for participation of young students that is holistic and inclusive in nature. Please refer to our website www.asti.org.my for more information regarding our projects.