**Covid-19 and Teaching English in Difficult Circumstances (1) – TELCnet online discussion**

**10 April 2020**

**Abstract:** TELCnet coordinators Harry Kuchah Kuchah and Prem Phyak shared their thoughts and experiences with Richard Smith (former TELCnet coordinator) – then participants were invited to contribute to the discussion around the following questions: \* How has the Covid-19 / Coronavirus crisis been affecting us professionally? \* What new problems are we and our students now facing? The purpose of our discussion was to offer mutual support in these difficult times. There were no formal presentations but the aim was to see if we have similar questions / issues, and any suggestions …

**Recording:** <https://zoom.us/rec/play/6ZF_demo-Dk3HtbGtwSDV6crW9XoK_qshHUa-KUNzky9VyYCNwfyNOdENrTxHTHmuxPPhy-gY6_C7a11?continueMode=true>

**Summary:**

0:30 Richard Smith (UK) – welcome & introduction to TELCnet (bit.ly/telcnet-home). The discussion is informal, to share experiences, provide mutual support, see if we want further discussions. Reality is we’re all in lockdown – it’s a completely new situation for teachers and teacher trainers. Suggestion to Prem and Harry to have 5 mins each, then all share experiences, reflections, feelings.

03:45 – Prem Phyak (Nepal) introduced rationale for the discussion. Global pandemic;

in Nepal, now third week of complete lockdown. Universities care ompletely closed but still university teachers are talking informally with students, with own resources, e.g. using Zoom, Skype. Strong felt need to establish connections with students. Support or otherwise from institution, and availability of otherwise of internet create an additional layer of challenge for teachers. There’s a double burden for teachers – on the one hand, need to deal with students from different socio-cultural backgrounds; on the other hand, need to deal with own health, wellbeing. So, social/emotional learning is important but [we] don’t know what are the right tools - what works well – it’s an emergency situation. So, it’s important to have this kind of informal, loose space where can share stories – not mentally loaded just sharing, considering for example: What are the situations we’re going through, how are we teaching, what are the tools we’re using, are they working or not, what social/emotional challenges do we and students have, what institutional support do we have or not have? The situation unclear – we don’t know the future / how institution will respond to our needs. Thus, it’s important to have this kind of platform, can be therapeutic. There’s a felt need for interactions with students and colleagues. So, Harry, Richard and I thought we might have a series of discussions.

08.40 – Dipika Gode (India) – worried, as schools don’t have e-learning in place. Talked with principal, asked to have Zoom meetings [among staff?] but they didn’t understand the concept. 55-60 students in class – how to deal with it? What is our responsibility in class, what will our responsibility be? What should do, how support them? Many questions, no answers. As it is, can’t connect with other teachers in the school properly – only on whatsapp, so can’t discuss with other teachers. I’m here to try to get solutions to problems I’m going to face when teaching large classes.

10:35 - Harry Kuchah Kuchah (UK/Cameroon) – As Prem mentioned, this is just a beginning so we might just be talking about problems and documenting them for now – then later can go back over them, reflect, before moving into action. Unless we really understand problems we can’t find solutions. E.g. today Harry read a poem written by teacher in Cameroon – about a child punished for coming late to school but has to look after disabled father in the morning, taking him to care centre, needing to walk 5 miles. Need to identify problems first, from a detached perspective, not just from existing prejudices. Today we’ll share problems, maybe next week or some other time reflect on the problems – in future conversations we might be looking at how to address these on basis of full understanding. The pandemic has added an extra layer to existing difficulties – let’s look at the discussion questions again and share experiences of the problems we face now:

[In chat box]

\* How has the Covid-19 / Coronavirus crisis been affecting us professionally?

\* What new problems are we and our students now facing?

The purpose of our discussion is to offer mutual support in these difficult times. There will be no formal presentations but it might be good to see if we have similar questions / issues, and any suggestions.

16:50 – Richard goes back to what Dipika was saying about possible lack of internet being a widespread problem. E.g. even if want to use Zoom [with students], how many students have access?

[chat continuation of this]

Manjusha Sagrolikar: Dipika has focused on challenging conditions. It's all over there at remote places. Rural and semi rural areas. Schools don't use technology for classes. They don't know about virtual learning. So this is the time to find out solutions.

Niharika Thoutam: no systems no net connections are available in rural areas where my students live

Mamatha sadu: With my students also the same situation

vijaybhasker reddy gannu: How can we use the high technology in low resource education system ?

17:35 – Laxman Gnawali (Nepal) – we’re professionally affected in that we can neither stop what we’re doing nor be able to fully function. Don’t have sufficient knowledge but university expects expect us to be fully functioning – so we have pressure. When teaching online I’m faking happiness, I can’t talk about the pressure, though students say they feel more energised [due to my attitude]. In Nepal legal/academic issues have been raised – suddenly we started going online but there were one or two who were outside Kathmandu [when lockdown happened] and couldn’t come back / attend classes, so they’re now in limbo – how to cater to them is an issue. Shall we count the classes or wait for them? The university is talking about alternative assessment but society is conservative. Can universities graduate students without 3-hour exams. [The university?] can neither make a move or say where we are.

20:30 – Prem Phyak (Nepal)– a major challenge of teaching with technology is providing feedback to students – it’s important to do so. A tough job to do so to 50 students. No ready-made answer yet but sharing sour stories about this could be helpful. Another issue – not only we but students, too, are overwhelmed. For those without access to internet there’s a pressure to read, to have access to resources – another layer of challenge.

22:05 – Harry invites Manjusha to say more about the following (in the chat box):

Manjusha Sagrolikar: I am using zoom for 'Reading Club" activity. But only few students are having advantage. What about others? We need perfect virtual learning system in our villages.

22:30 – Manjusha Sagrolikar (India): started a reading club for children from all over Maharashtra. Teenagers and younger learners, but only a few students have taken advantage – 21–23 students. Worried about own students – they haven’t joined – because from rural area; parents won’t let them use mobile phone. Working with large classes of teenagers. The next academic year is due to start for 12th standard students but can’t start because there is no technology system in school – I’m worried about that, how to overcome this situation?

Harry Kuchah – There’s a big issue of social inequalities; students from rural, poor homes can’t afford technology. Yesterday I heard someone speak about Covid pandemic – they said we are learning how dysfunctional our society is – it’s beginning to become more apparent in education systems; the problem existed even before – how have we been addressing that in our classrooms? Will it help us [behave] differently when we get back to a normal situation? – We need to think about how we support students then.

26:00 Harry invitesBébété (secondary teacher Guinea): Most teachers and students not used to technology / online working. Now trying to work with Zoom – not really easy. MoE has started online courses but students not taking part. People are still waiting. Teachers working with British Council, trying to see how can deal with Zoom, not completely ready yet. Connection is really expensive here – Salaries are not high, students are not from rich families. if want to use Zoom not all students can participate, not everyone can afford – thus MoE thinking to create platform of courses on CD. So, even with Zoom, it’ll be problem because of connection. Wondering how can manage it.

32:00 - Richard – Manjusha and Bébété are using Zoom – a way of communicating ‘live’ – and as we heard there are sometimes problems of connecting even if students have access; often they don’t; maybe we need to think beyond particular ways of doing a ‘live’ classroom – people are often saying that over here [in the UK] – it’s too hard to recreate a classroom live, and often better to do things that are not live – put resources up somewhere to access at times they can get connection.

Bébété – yes, I’m in charge of an English Club; created a whatsapp group for those students; sometimes there are some courses and we discuss about them there.

Richard- Whatsapp is a good example of something that is not completely live but can access at different times, might be a way around problems with live connection.

[chat box discussion going on at same time:]

Manjusha Sagrolikar: We don't know how long we have to cope up with this situation. Even University exams, school exams are postponed.

Tayyaba Tajamal: Assalam o Alaikum to Every one, This is Tayyaba from Pakistan. I am serving in University of Narowal that is also a narrow area. yes the problem is same of internet connection in rural areas. classes are too large as the students are of 40-50 in number. it creates great problem to take all students in one go and teach them. what can be the solution? as i am using google classroom to teach students.reas,

Dipika gode: At present we all are worried about our 10th class we haven't started yet will we get extra time from the board how to complete the course

Kavitha neerumalla: In general its been affecting professionals working in various fields like sales, marketing, various industries, agricultural works...etc...but coming to our eduction field where technology is not available, i. e. no access to internet surely lot of impact..students become lazy, careless.... its going to be a big challenge evenafter the lockdown period.... tq

Sudhakar Katare: yes I agree with Manjusha ma'am ,some parents don't want to give chance of using technology to their children because of some social issues.

Sampat: We have started a project of USIEF Connecting classrooms with the help of Mr. Vinayadhar Raju,mentor for professional development

00:35:07 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Vinay's ideas are fantastic.

34:30 – Smriti Singh – ( IAT Patna, India) - based in Bihar, working through Webex, Microsoft Teams. What I’m trying to do for some people with network issues – I make powerpoint slides, email them before class, ask them to read it, and when join we’re more in discussion mode. Also useful is Microsoft Teams facility to make quizzes – so class is more like a practice session. Also, we can practise writing using Micrcosoft Teams collaboratively - engineering students together can frame a memo or an abstract, each responsible for a portion.

[continuation of chat box discussion]

00:35:56 Sampat: We want to use tools like padlet and kahoot

00:39:04 Sudhakar Katare: As a teacher in rural India ,we have our own problems, lack of social and school environment, lack of technology and tech knowledge. Administrative Support.

00:39:10 Sampat: Everything is locked down

00:39:20 Prem Phyak: same here

00:39:41 Sampat: parents are worrying about the studies of students

00:40:06 Manjusha Sagrolikar: In my reading club more than 65 students are members.But only 25 are joining. Others give response on whatsapp group.

00:40:33 Prem Phyak: Is it a mandatory activity?

00:41:30 Sampat: My son is attending on line classes B Tech II year

00:42:06 Sampat: zoom sessions

00:42:19 Mamatha sadu: Yes, they are using zoom classes

38:30 – Harry – Somebody mentioned parents … parents being nervous about what is happening / how students will learn. Anyone in contact with parents? Does that put pressure on you? Does it make you think about your role in society in any particular way?

39:15 Dipika – We have Whatsapp group, students from 9th grade. Messages are coming from parents now about when will class start, how are we going to send children to school, is it safe in crowded class, worried about health and if syllabus will be completed or not. Many questions. Can’t send children to tutorials either. Main problem is they don’t have any access to technology – even if request Zoom or to give email ID to us, I don’t think they’ll cooperate. Parents worried how their students will put up with all the havoc. Government is also not clear – we still don’t know if last paper of the board will be conducted or not. We don’t know what to do, parents don’t know what to do, so many questions, how to answer them?

Harry: Discourse on large classes has always been about teaching and learning but now there’s an added layer of difficulty with large classes – the whole fact that people are afraid of infection – in large classes. lLkelihood they’ll be infected is increased in large classes

[continuation of chat box discussion:]

00:43:02 Laxman Gnawali: We are using Google Meet successfully.

00:43:10 Smriti Singh: at least in India at this point most places are well-connected with the internet. The students doing their Btech degrees have smart phones which they use to access classes

00:43:19 vijaybhasker reddy gannu: Nowadays every teacher is looking towards online teaching letus do collaboratively to achieve this in future shortly

00:43:24 Smriti Singh: The real problem is at the school level

00:44:21 Galaxy J7 Pro: I agree with you smriti mam

00:45:36 Galaxy J7 Pro: Government has started onlines classes

00:46:31 Laxman Gnawali: My neighbours whoever I have talked to, have found that their children are actually using the online facility for a right purpose, Now, the chat is for completing tasks.

00:46:42 Mamatha sadu: For few children who are able to access smart phones I shared pdf file of text book for preparation for their next academic year through whatsapp

00:47:48 Sampat: SCERT has started classes for 10 the class students

00:48:39 Laxman Gnawali: One of colleagues found it difficult to handle 28 M Phil students in his online class, so he split them into two groups. Now, he repeats the lesson, extra work load actually.

00:49:01 Prem Phyak: That's too much

00:49:14 Prem Phyak: 28 MPHIL students--

00:49:21 Smriti Singh: most schools have formed WhatsApp grouos for each class

00:49:33 Smriti Singh: the parents get the material

00:49:47 Smriti Singh: and give print outs to students

00:50:13 Manjusha Sagrolikar: ICSC,CBSC board schools have started their classes on zoom, google meet. They are using software for that. But number of L1 schools are larger than these schools.And they are completely closed.

00:51:47 POOJA THAKRE: hello everyone Iam Pooja Iam working as a English subject assistant in DIET Nagpur.. Iam not a head of department.. but I am supporting Teachers for self studies and for motivating them to contact the parents... and help children to learn through Diksha app and other links provided by us.

41:30 - Prem: Is anyone in this group working as a head teacher or department head? Because most of the questions are related to institutional things like how schools or deparments are providing support to teachers – could be interesting to hear.

Azadchandrashekar Maidam (Telagana, India): I received a call this morning from district education office – wanted something because children are sitting at home without any proper preparation or guidance – asked me to prepare something that children can do at home – I asked them how going to do it - they told me that almost all head teachers have numbers of school children, whatever the material you plan will posted to head masters’ Whatsapp group, who will then forward to students, via Whatsapp or smartphone – we don’t know how many have those – but we’ll try and incorporate everything, to prepare for exams which have been postponed for a few days. I sent an action plan already – we’re working on it – spreading through Whatsapp, Facebook and things – will prepare for exams.

45:15 Sudhakar Katare (India) – I’m a teacher in rural India – as Manjusha and Dipika mentioned, we’re starting using technology by Whatsapp groups but there so many parents who are farmers and don’t have access to internet or Whatsapp, so very difficult to get connected with our students in this pandemic situation. Problems are different in cities and rural areas. I have my own problems because of no social and school environment. Administration is not supporting because doesn’t know what are our problems. Will be hard to connect with students. Only 50% of parents are in Whatsapp group; most don’t want to allow learners to use that technology – think they will do something wrong with it.

Richard: So mobile phone belongs to parents and they don’t want to give that to their children? What reasons could there be? Why are they reluctant? Because they need the phone themselves?

47:30 - Smriti Singh: May I interrupt? As a parent, I receive my kids’ homework via Whatsapp. I have my work, to do so if I don’t have a laptop I’m dependent on the phone and don’t want to give to my kids. Another challenge – you need to write the homework out – do double work – or do a print out, so burden has increased.

48:00 - Dipika Gode: in my area, parents won’t give mobile to children because think they will misuse the mobile and won’t study – that is why parents won’t give mobile to their children. And while teaching I sometimes upload my powerpointts to a mobile. And my head teacher scolds me – why do you use a mobile while teaching? So the head teacher himself cannot understand why I use mobile.

48: 50 – Prem: Yes, there is a strong mentality that if you give technology like mobile phone or laptop to kids, they will be misusing those tools, for fun, like watching movies and other things, not necessarily for learning. That’s another challenge for teachers – to help parents understand how technology works.

[chat box]

00:53:28 Mizo: Certain parents don't know the use of whatsapp and their wards in grade 1 and 2 also don't.

00:53:41 vijaybhasker reddy gannu: Think positively Everything is possible please don't concentrate on problems please letus concentrate

00:54:13 Kuchah Kuchah: Vijaybhasker, today we are looking at the problems

00:55:48 Kavitha neerumalla: not only students but also teachers are restricted to use mobiles freely

00:55:50 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Even there is ban on using mobiles, video shooting in the classroom, recording lessons in school.

00:56:17 Prem Phyak: Yes.

00:56:25 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Teachers are not allowed.

00:56:34 Prem Phyak: I feel that there is something wrong with the mentality

00:56:34 vivo 1917: It's a great idea to have WhatsApp groups for the classes you teach to. But , such things have a lot of shortcomings,too.

00:56:38 Galaxy J7 Pro: absolutely

00:56:45 Galaxy J7 Pro: may i share s

49:50 – Harry: I think we’ve focused a lot on parents and forgotten that some of these issues come from the schools themselves. In Cameroon, for example, even though we have departments of technology in our ministry of education, mobile phones are proscribed in school environmnent, thus conveying message to parents that mobile phones are not good – hypocrisy of saying we’re trying to do things digitally, appointing people for distance learning, but no translation of that into educational system. In 2016, Eric Ekembe and I did a presentation at the CAMELTA conference, and I mentioned idea of using Whatsappt to support learning – outcry from 300 teachers, students would abuse it. I said it’s not always negative – students will respond in the way that you react to them Now teachers being asked in Cameroon to use Whatsapp to continue to teach their students and teachers are finding it difficult because educational institution and cultural mentality have made use of mobile phones a taboo for learning by children.

52:10 – Eric Ekembe (Cameroon) - Addting to what Harry said, in Cameroonian context, having a mobile phone is like a privilege. Applies to most Sub-saharan African contexts. Privileges are not shared – ‘why would you share with with a child?’. Some hypocirisy at level of ministries – e.g. Ministry of Secondary and Basic Education. Trying to teach lessons through TV – teachers go there and teach lessons, supposed to be recorded so students can access them - but again problem of how many have access – a huge problem raising issue of exclusivity in learning. Then again, I was following discussions here though I had power failure - which is part of the problem - Everyone seems to be experimenting – at individual level things seem to have been working e.g. Moodle, MOOCs, online resources, lots of experience but at institutional level lots of hypocrisy – we want to give impression everything is working, probably as feedback to the huge funding we’ve received from donor agencies. And it’s now that we’re caught in this trap… Now I’d like to raise a problem at a personal level – my daughter in grade 4 received maths exercises from her teacher, on Whatsapp, had to copy onto sheet of paper – and in afternoon receives answers. This raises problem of interaction – we all know learning should go on with interaction, whether online or in the classroom. Just providing answers doesn’t involve interaction or consider the process which leads to the result. Secondly, another personal experience - two days ago an online meeting with my students – preservice teachers – barely a third were there available though I informed them two days before. At the start of it I made an audio and posted in Whatsapp, saying this is what we’d be discussing. This is a great challenge – we’re talking about the teachers who tomorrow will have to teach using these online resources.

57:20 – Syed Irshad Ali (India) - Telangana - add something to what Eric said - My son is getting practice worksheets but when I asked him to do this at home he asked ‘Why do I need to do these things, school is shut?’ – I say ‘You are a teachers’ son, this is interesting’, he says ‘I don’t find anything interesting – I need to put it down on paper’ (it was on mum’s phone) (1) sp firstly, it should be interesting (2) secondly it had picture then he found it interesting – he said, ‘I’ll do this because I just need to match things’.

And then the next day, the third day, fourth day, he said ‘dad, where is the feedback? Mum is taking. A picture and sending it’ – I said, ‘I am a teacher, I can give you feedback’, he said, ‘no , my teacher is my teacher’. So that is one challenge coming to me as a parent.

As a teacher, as rightly suggested my friend from Telangana, we are already doing some collaborative work – what we’re trying to do is connect classrooms through some projects – recently the Minister has said to give some online lessons, and maybe soon through TV channel, especially for 10th class. There will not be a big challenge because TV is accessible to everyone, even in rural areas here in Telangana. Lessons are from the text, and children can go back to do things like revision of the topics. So I think things will work out very soon, hopefully through Whatsapp and also Zoom meetings, and we teachers are becoming more savvy – we’ll come up with some sure, appropriate results.

*Use of TV*

00:57:58 Jani Reddy: In India, the NCERT the apex school education body has some exclusive Television channels to telecast lessons to students on a regular basis. Most of the families have TVs at home. This is one of the easy way to reach the unreached. Even every state has its own education channels and telecasting the lessons. Finally it depends on how far they are benefiting out of it.

00:58:20 Prem Phyak: Sounds great

00:58:33 Prem Phyak: Is there anyway we can see those lessons?

00:58:47 Sudhakar Katare: Here in India this is the time of reflection, practice and assessments,but now we are lockdown and there is no hope that in this academic year we will meet with our learners. I am worried about ,how will be the next year?

00:58:58 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Using TV has great advantages, Reddy sir.

00:59:17 Galaxy J7 Pro: Yes, Digital lessons

00:59:23 Manjusha Sagrolikar: agree, Sudhakar sir

01:00:01 Sampat Kumar Kokkula: CIET-NCERT conducting webinars for teachers

01:01:55 Jani Reddy: Swayam Prabha is the educational channel from MHRD and NCERT is one of that.

01:02:43 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Can University students use Swayam?

01:04:19 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Teachers are getting engaged with webinars, fb live, twitter chat but what about our students?

01:04:59 Smriti Singh: yes

01:05:05 Mizo: yes

01:05:09 Prem Phyak: Swayam Prabha is the educational channel from MHRD and NCERT is one of that.

[Discussion of date / time of next meeting, encouragement to use Facebook page –

Also we will write a summary, including text chat.]

Richard: Seems a lot of places are starting TV, it becomes important to think about what teachers can do to support parents / how reach students to use those TV programmes

Prem - Hopefully we are feeling less isolated and it’s been therapeutic

Harry – Today we’ve been exploring difficulties – knowing about each other’s problems. Hopefully as we have more discussions we’ll be able to share some solutions. We are in it together and facing the same challenges.

*Thanks*

01:07:44 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Thanks for focusing on important/urgent issue in this critical situation. It's the need of our time.

01:10:04 POOJA THAKRE: thank you very much

01:10:09 Manjusha Sagrolikar: Thank you sir

01:10:29 J Anderson: Thanks guys for a very interesting discussion.

01:10:53 Sampat Kumar Kokkula: if possible mail us

01:10:54 Renu Dhotre: Thank you everyone

01:11:16 Kavitha neerumalla: thank you everyone

01:11:32 Marisol Guzman Cova: many thanks!!

01:11:34 Sudhakar Katare: Thank you for raising common problems, and this wonderful session.

01:11:38 Smriti Singh: Thank you everyone for the interesting discussion

01:11:43 vijaybhasker reddy gannu: thank you everyone

01:11:53 Prem Phyak: You are welcome.

01:11:55 Dipika gode: Thankyou everyone

01:12:20 Loreto: Thank you everyone for sharing your experiences.

01:12:52 Azadchandrashekar Maidam: I look forward to learn more from you all.

01:13:01 J Anderson: Some innovative solutions!

01:13:06 Rainikindi Padmavathi: thanks everyone

01:13:21 POOJA THAKRE: very healthy discussion

Follow-up Facebook comments –

[**Fauzia Shamim**](https://www.facebook.com/fauzia.shamim?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNjAwNjk5ODkzMzg3NDExXzE2MDExNzQ1MTY2NzMyODI%3D) One interesting situation at my university in Karachi, Pakistan. As is the case in most universities, we've all had to move our classes online in a hurry in the wake of Covid-19. However, colleges with smaller classes, including my college, have been able to find and/or experiment with some strategies to engage students online using google meet, google classroom and Zoom. However, colleges that typically have 100 plus students are finding it difficult to teach online and are mainly sharing prerecorded lectures with their students. So ways of teaching large classes online may be an interesting area to explore in future meetup

[**KuchahNnam Kuchah**](https://www.facebook.com/harry.kuchah?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTk0MTY3MzE0MDQwNjY5XzE2MDI0MzQ1NTMyMTM5NDU%3D)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/146198305504251/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN) One of the things that inspired me in the discussion was the USIEF project lead by [Vinayadhar Raju](https://www.facebook.com/VINAYADHARRAJU?hc_location=ufi). I'd be very grateful if Vinay can can join the conversation next Friday to tell us more or just share that here

Follow-up Twitter comments

**[Laurent Ahishakiye](https://twitter.com/Lahishakiye)**

[@Lahishakiye](https://twitter.com/Lahishakiye)

It true that the learning for learners from disadvantaged areas is very difficult, or impossible. For instance, in my context- Rwanda, internet is very expensive and few people in rural areas use it. The government has started broadcasting lessons on Radio and TV stations.

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Then parents can support their children. What about those parents who can't do this? It is really challenging and if Covid 19 is not over soon, education will be seriously affected.

Appendix: Further experiences shared on Teachers Research! And TELCnet Facebook pages before the discussion:

**TELCnet facebook comments**

How has the Covid-19 / Coronavirus crisis been affecting you professionally, in your community? Many in this group were were already facing difficult circumstances but what new problems are you and your students now facing? Share here, if you like, for mutual support in these difficult times - it might be good to see if we have similar questions / issues, and any suggestions

* [Rokeya Rahim Riya](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008188719883&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUxMjc5ODQ5NDQ2MDI%3D) How to retain the interest of the students in online class?  
  What activities will help them engaged more in the class?

[1](https://www.facebook.com/ufi/reaction/profile/browser/?ft_ent_identifier=ZmVlZGJhY2s6MTU4NTA5NTAyNDk0Nzg5OF8xNTg1MTI3OTg0OTQ0NjAy&av=1085088615)[Rokeya Rahim Riya](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008188719883&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUxMjk3OTE2MTEwODg%3D) High school graders are reluctant to learning as they deem this situation as vacation. How can we motivate our students?

* + · [1w](https://www.facebook.com/groups/telcgroup/permalink/1585095024947898/?comment_id=1585129791611088)
* [Rokeya Rahim Riya](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008188719883&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUxMzQyNjgyNzczMDc%3D) In addition, we're using Google Meet to conduct the class.
* [Jillani Jillani](https://www.facebook.com/djilani.english?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUxMzQ3MTgyNzcyNjI%3D) Unfortunately I haven't had any idea about online teaching. That makes it difficult for me to cope with the situation.

[1](https://www.facebook.com/ufi/reaction/profile/browser/?ft_ent_identifier=ZmVlZGJhY2s6MTU4NTA5NTAyNDk0Nzg5OF8xNTg1MTM0NzE4Mjc3MjYy&av=1085088615)[Fay Papadopoulou](https://www.facebook.com/fay.papadopoulou.1?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUxODE3OTE2MDU4ODg%3D) How to ensure the students are engaged and stretched enough. We need to practise zoom and Skype and other types of equipment that I am not familiar personally.

* [Manjusha Sagrolikar](https://www.facebook.com/manjusha.warudkar?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUxOTMxNzgyNzE0MTY%3D) [https://www.facebook.com/groups/167757357905855/permalink/216642989683958/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/167757357905855/permalink/216642989683958/?hc_location=ufi)  
  I have created " Reading Club for children on ZOOM app from 25th March 2020. Now, learners are at home. I feel as a teacher it's my responsibility to serve learners. Students fr…[See More](https://www.facebook.com/groups/telcgroup/)
* [Saussure Saussure Skinner](https://www.facebook.com/sheikh.mun.5?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODUyMzg2NDE2MDAyMDM%3D) classes are cancelled in pakistan which is a big loss for students.there must be some home task like activities in place of exams for promotion to next semester coz sitting and waiting is not the solution .this break up in studies will damage the course
* [Prem Phyak](https://www.facebook.com/prem.phyak?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODU3ODMwNDgyMTI0Mjk%3D)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/146198305504251/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN) In Nepal, universities and schools are closed. Classes are suspended. In my case, our university has not made any arrangements for online teaching. Teachers and universities are overwhelmed and they don't what could be the next step. I also see mental …[See More](https://www.facebook.com/groups/telcgroup/)
* [KN Paudel](https://www.facebook.com/sandeep.paudel.319?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODYxMTI1MDE1MTI4MTc%3D) In Nepal, all the schools and the Universities are closed. Classes and final examinations are suspended. Students are not mentally ready for the preparation of their suspended examination.
* [Mizo Prova Borah](https://www.facebook.com/mpborah?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODY1MTE0ODQ4MDYyNTI%3D) Would like to get suggestions for helping students of classes 1 and 2 in remote villages besides radio classes started out here.
* [Krishna Kalyan Dixit](https://www.facebook.com/krishnakalyan.dixit?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoxNTg1MDk1MDI0OTQ3ODk4XzE1ODY4MjAxNTgxMDg3MTg%3D) In India all institutions are closed. It is more than three weeks now. We are trying to be in touch with students through several channels. I am also engaging classes students via Zoom twice a week. It seems working but classroom management is emerging as one of the challenges. There are lot many distractions for students while working online.

**Teachers research! Facebook group comments:**

##### [Richard Smith](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1085088615&fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdC-R-R&eid=ARAM4sFerJ73L5EuNvd29xUyP-B4J50DP3r5jHJ24-YkpOl6L0cMkAMBdLKeJmxKER-hL7cqRccC2yW2&hc_ref=ARQkyDTzUQEA-y-g9LIHqjr4j6ewnWrXzlg3dJv2S8BFhJLz4BXU9Zv6mzR-zWaji0I&dti=1667532090151304&hc_location=group)

[**Admin**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN) · [April 1 at 1:09 PM](https://www.facebook.com/groups/teachersresearch/permalink/2659397870964716/)

How has the Covid-19 / Coronavirus crisis been affecting you professionally, in your community? What problems are you and your students facing? Share here, if you like, for mutual support in these difficult times - it might be good to see if we have similar questions / issues, though our contexts are so different!

Top of Form

* [Gangaiah Buka](https://www.facebook.com/buka.gangaiah?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0MDA3NjQyOTc3NjA%3D) It's Summative assessment-2 Period . Due to Covid-19 all the educational institutions are closed . And the teachers are staying at home... 95% syllabus in primary Schools have been completed but the time is difficult
  + [Richard Smith](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1085088615&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0MTA2Nzc2MzAxMDI%3D)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ACTIVE_MEMBER) Where are you based Gangaiah?
  + [Gangaiah Buka](https://www.facebook.com/buka.gangaiah?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0MTQ4MDA5NjMwMjM%3D) Telangana State, India

**Fathiyya Refky** The fact that we have to teach totally online for the first time, in place of traditional face-to-face classes. Teachers need instant training, but the digital literacy of students and connectivity issues will remain challenging.

* + [Richard Smith](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1085088615&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0MDcyNTc2MzA0NDQ%3D)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ACTIVE_MEMBER) This must be a very common issue - where are you Fathiyya, and what technology / platforms are you supposed to be using?
* [Saima Seher](https://www.facebook.com/sam.seher.7?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0MTIxMjQyOTY2MjQ%3D) Since due to CoronaVirus outbreak, all educational institutions and universities are closed , it is a paradigm shift for teachers and students both to switch to online teaching learning process as there is a digital gap and due to sudden long term suspension of teaching leraning process, It is being hampered ...
* [Saima Seher](https://www.facebook.com/sam.seher.7?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0MTI0NDQyOTY1OTI%3D) However, I am using google classroom to stay connected with my University students and sharing material over there.
* [Paryy Jot Bansal](https://www.facebook.com/paryy.bansal?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk0ODkyMTQyODg5MTU%3D) Here in UAE we are teaching online through Google classroom and zoom . Government has ordered to stretch till the term end June 2020.Kids are finding difficulties in connecting so many teachers in a one day .As they are not good in maintaining to do list ..often skip their scheduled slots .Let's see what's come next.As a teacher I feel there is need of strong time and content management
* [Uma Ganga](https://www.facebook.com/uma.ganga.52?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk2MTM1ODA5NDMxNDU%3D) Since corona has stretched its wings through out, all educational institutions were shut down in Telangana and ours is totally face to face classroom transactions where students come from social and economic backward classes. It's high time to revise for their summative assessment 2.  
  We can't even assign them any work related to exams as most of the pupils have access to limited internet facility.....

[1](https://www.facebook.com/ufi/reaction/profile/browser/?ft_ent_identifier=ZmVlZGJhY2s6MjY1OTM5Nzg3MDk2NDcxNl8yNjU5NjEzNTgwOTQzMTQ1&av=1085088615)[Brenda Castillo Honorio](https://www.facebook.com/brenda.castillo.98434?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk3NDc2NzA5Mjk3MzY%3D) Unfortunately, in Peru classes haven't even started yet. Now the government is trying to solve this problem by implementing virtual lessons until Covid-19 crisis ends.

* [Claudio Puentes Mejias](https://www.facebook.com/claudiopuentesm?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk3NzIwODA5MjcyOTU%3D) Change from face to face lessons into virtual classroom!! It has been difficult dealing with that.  
  In virtual classrooms we do not have the opportunity to look into the eyes to our students or their faces in order to know if they are understanding or even if they are there!  
  Another big issue is the connectivity problems, some students do not have internet in their house.
* [Erika Loreto Diaz Suazo](https://www.facebook.com/erika.loreto.diaz.suazo?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NTk5NTg3MzA5MDg2MzA%3D) Niether the teachers Claudio Puentes Mejías, We weren`t prepared at all for supporting 40 or more students at the same time in a screen and most of our connectivity has colapse 😵
* [Nasreen Hussain](https://www.facebook.com/nasreen.hussain.9256?comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NjIwMTQ2NTQwMzYzNzE%3D) LMS, Skype and Zoom for uni students but there are many glitches like connectivity, lack of online training at both ends etc... but life continues.🙃
* [Richard Smith](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1085088615&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NjQyMzcxNDA0ODA3ODk%3D)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ACTIVE_MEMBER) TESOL has made a page of different kinds of advice - may be useful: [http://blog.tesol.org/coronavirus-resources-for-elt/...](http://blog.tesol.org/coronavirus-resources-for-elt/?_zs=MRG8c1&_zl=7jGe6&fbclid=IwAR0wxtuoBbgwCyHDifwm0IE2APAg9a2xbpiMjkcnUdbGfr9u1gi3PdoaITg)
  + [Richard Smith](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1085088615&comment_id=Y29tbWVudDoyNjU5Mzk3ODcwOTY0NzE2XzI2NjQyMzc5MjA0ODA3MTE%3D)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ADMIN)[](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667532090151304/badge_member_list/?badge_type=ACTIVE_MEMBER) Internet connectivity - having it or not having it - is a big factor from what many of you are sharing - we can't assume students have access, in many contexts, and teachers are facing a lot of stress adapting, as well as coping with their own changed lives