Dr. Y. Malini Reddy
Professor, Administrative Staff College of India
Challenge: Confidence & Comfort to Get Back to School

- Government run schools used as Corona Care Centres and for housing migrant labour
- Dual challenge of handling overinformed and underinformed
- Managing stigma and social ostracization of students coming from Covid affected families

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
- National Guidelines on sanitization measures
- Communication products for parents and students
- Intensified enrollment marketing
- Medical facilities to be supplemented with psychological counselling
Challenge: Practicing Physical Distancing Norms

- Schools are constrained for built up space with little scope for expansion.
- This is particularly so for schools operating in rented buildings.
- Residential schools in rented building use classrooms as dorms

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
- National Guidelines – alternate days, staggered timing/shifts
- Expand facility with temporary sheds to hold some classes outdoor
- Develop plans to identify rooms for conversion into additional classrooms
Challenge: Access to WASH Infrastructure

- Limited availability of taps and water for frequent hand hygiene
- Limited number of toilets

Possible Solutions
- Knowledge about frugal approaches for handwash stations
- Multiple sources for financing testing devices, additional staff and consumables – soap, facemasks
- Knowledge about water conservation and reuse
Challenge: Sustaining Cleanliness and Hygiene Practices

- Methods and approaches for ingraining good hygiene practices as habits are yet to be mastered
- Constant requirement for reinforcing, monitoring
- Involving children in cleaning can have social ramifications

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
- Extensive involvement of children in monitoring
- Checklists and knowledge products for children and parents
- Visual cues in schools
- Activities and games to reinforcing safe practices
Challenge: Self-discipline and policy support

- Testing at individual level is limited
- Enforcing discipline among those visiting school is difficult
- Social stigma for covid infected is high
- Uncertain policies to address concerns and situations arising out of covid.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
- Strict protocols and schedule for entry into and conduct in the school
- Restriction of visitors/parents/vendors movement
- Stock up facemask and sanitizers for ill prepared visitors / students
- Personal protective equipment for sanitation workers and others extensively exposed to humans and waste
- School policy for accommodating the sick upon self-declaration; paid leave, provision for re-examination/ assignments